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January 1980

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COVER PHOTO of Bobby Clarke by Robert

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February Issue of Hockey Digest
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The Fans Speak Out

I never read the *Hockey Digest* before, but I recently picked up a copy. I saw a column in which Bob Verdi said that John Ziegler did what he had to do in the matter of Don Murdoch's suspension. I disagree.

Don Murdoch made a mistake. He paid for that mistake when he lived for months under the threat of a jail sentence, suffered the embarrassment of a highly publicized trial, and sweated out a hearing with the immigration service over whether he would lose his work permit. It's true that the trial and the hearing turned out favorably for Murdoch, but the months of suspense and the sorrow over the pain he caused his family were already worse than the harm he did anyone else. That should have been the end of it.

John Ziegler had no right to punish Murdoch again because he thought it would keep someone else from having to face the same problems Murdoch did.

John Ziegler claimed that Don Murdoch has a responsibility to the fans and that he failed to live up to that responsibility. Let me tell you how I would define the responsibilities of Don Murdoch or any other hockey player. He should stay in shape. He should work hard. If he is especially talented, he should make the most of those talents, instead of coasting on them. He should remem-

ber that a hockey stick is a piece of equipment designed for hitting the puck, not a weapon for hitting other players. He should have enough self-control not to engage in hair pulling, spitting, making vulgar gestures, and other types of infantile and unprofessional behavior. He should cooperate with the members of the media who serve as a link between the player and the fan.

There might be something I forgot. But I certainly do not expect Don Murdoch or any other player to conduct his private life with a view towards setting a good example for my kids. That's my responsibility.

I was particularly disturbed by the fact that in the same column in which you supported Murdoch's suspension, you praised the Flyers for being a first class operation. To my way of thinking, players like Paul Holmgren, Dave Hoyda, and Ken Linseman have done much more to disgrace the league than Don Murdoch did. I am still waiting for the league to deal as harshly with their repeated dangerous and offensive behavior as it did with Don Murdoch's one mistake. But I won't hold my breath.

Pat Daley
Mt. Sinai, N.Y.

How could Al Arbour have been named coach of the year last year after



Stan Mikita

the year the New York Rangers had? Fred Shero took a last place team that was eliminated during the first round in 1977-78 and brought them to the Stanley Cup finals after beating Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Arbour's Islanders.

John Perzely
Paterson, N.J.

Arbour's Islanders finished with more points than any team in the National Hockey League. Moreover, the broadcasters make their Coach of the Year selection on the basis of regular season play. That is not to say you don't have a good point; you just don't have as many as The Islanders.

I can't believe Stan Mikita is still playing. Would you please print his career record?

Ron Pawnell
Los Angeles, Calif.

STAN MIKITA'S CAREER RECORD

Season	Club	Lea.	Regular Schedule					Playoffs			
			GP	G	A	TP	PIM	GP	G	A	TPPIM
1958-59	Chicago	NHL	3	0	1	1	4	—	—	—	—
1959-60	Chicago	NHL	67	8	18	26	119	3	0	1	1 2
1960-61	Chicago	NHL	66	19	34	53	100	12	6	*15	*21 19
1961-62	Chicago	NHL	70	25	52	77	97	12	6	15	21 19
1962-63	Chicago	NHL	65	31	45	76	69	6	3	2	5 2
1963-64a	Chicago	NHL	70	39	50	*89	146	7	3	6	9 8
1964-65a	Chicago	NHL	70	28	*59	*87	154	14	3	7	10 *53
1965-66	Chicago	NHL	68	30	*48	78	58	6	1	2	3 2
1966-67abc	Chicago	NHL	70	35	*62	*97	12	6	2	2	4 2
1967-68abc	Chicago	NHL	72	40	47	*87	14	11	5	7	12 6
1968-69	Chicago	NHL	74	30	67	97	52	—	—	—	—
1969-70	Chicago	NHL	76	39	47	86	50	8	4	6	10 2
1970-71	Chicago	NHL	74	24	48	72	85	18	5	13	18 16
1971-72	Chicago	NHL	74	26	39	65	46	8	3	1	4 4
1972-73	Chicago	NHL	57	27	56	83	32	15	7	13	20 8
1973-74	Chicago	NHL	76	30	50	80	46	11	5	6	11 8
1974-75	Chicago	NHL	79	36	50	86	48	8	3	4	7 12
1975-76	Chicago	NHL	48	16	41	57	37	4	0	0	0 4
1976-77	Chicago	NHL	57	19	29	48	20	2	0	1	1 1
1977-78	Chicago	NHL	76	18	41	59	35	4	3	0	3 0
1978-79	Chicago	NHL	65	19	36	55	34	—	—	—	—
NHL TOTALS			1377	539	921	1460	1258	155	59	91	150 169

a Art Ross Trophy

b Hart Trophy

c Lady Byng Trophy

*League leader

What finally happened in the Dale McCourt Case?

Barry Garner
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dale McCourt, you recall, was awarded to the Los Angeles Kings originally as compensation for goalie Rogie Vachon. McCourt balked, wanting to remain in Detroit. He got his wish when the Kings settled for center André St. Laurent, a No. 1 draft pick in 1980 and the option of a second round draft pick in 1980 or a No. 2 draft choice in 1981. That "trade"

averted another round of court struggles, for sure.

Please reprint the first group of players drafted from the amateur ranks the year that Denis Potvin was selected first by the Islanders.

Don McTavish
Montreal, Que.

Potvin, of course, was drafted from the Ottawa 67s in 1973, an All-Star defenseman to be. The accompanying list includes the players who were taken behind him:

1973 NHL AMATEUR DRAFT

Player	Claimed By 1973	Last Amateur Club
LYSIAK, Tom	Atlanta	Medicine Hat Tigers
VERVERGAERT, Dennis	Vancouver	London Knights
McDONALD, Lanny	Toronto	Medicine Hat Tigers
DAVIDSON, John	St. Louis	Calgary Centennials
SAVARD, Andre	Boston	Quebec Remparts
STOUGHTON, Blaine	Pittsburgh	Flin Flon Bombers
GAINEY, Bob	Montreal	Peterborough Petes
DAILEY, Bob	Vancouver	Toronto Marlboros
NEELY, Bob	Toronto	Peterborough Petes
RICHARDSON, Terry	Detroit	New Westminster Bruins
TITANIC, Morris	Buffalo	Sudbury Wolves
ROTA, Darcy	Chicago	Edmonton Oil Kings
MIDDLETON, Rick	NY Rangers	Oshawa Generals
TURNBULL, Ian	Toronto	Ottawa 67's
MERCREDI, Vic	Atlanta	New Westminster Bruins
GOLDUP, Glenn	Montreal	Toronto Marlboros
DUNLOP, Blake	Minnesota	Ottawa 67's
BORDELEAU, Paulin	Vancouver	Toronto Marlboros
GOODENOUGH, Larry	Philadelphia	London Knights
VAIL, Eric	Atlanta	Sudbury Wolves
MARRIN, Peter	Montreal	Toronto Marlboros
BIANCHIN, Wayne	Pittsburgh	Flin Flon Bombers
PESUT, George	St. Louis	Saskatoon Blades
ROGERS, John	Minnesota	Edmonton Oil Kings
LEAVINS, Brent	Philadelphia	Swift Current Broncos
CAMPBELL, Colin	Pittsburgh	Peterborough Petes
LANDRY, Jean	Buffalo	Quebec Remparts
THOMAS, Reg	Chicago	London Knights
HICKEY, Pat	NY Rangers	Hamilton Red Wings
JONES, Jim	Boston	Peterborough Petes
ANDRUFF, Ron	Montreal	Flin Flon Bombers

In your June 1979 issue, you had an article on "Who Will Be This Year's Playoff MVP?" But you didn't mention any members of the New York Rangers. I know that nobody expected the hapless Rangers to enter the finals, but they did.

Steve Antunes
Hillside, N.J.

Aha. Then you were surprised, too.

Please list when the National Hockey League teams before the merger received their franchise.

Mary Jacobsen
Great Neck, N.Y.

Montreal Canadiens	Nov. 22, 1917
Toronto Maple Leafs	Nov. 22, 1917
Boston Bruins	Nov. 1, 1924
New York Rangers	May 15, 1926
Chicago Black Hawks	Sept. 25, 1926
Detroit Red Wings	Sept. 25, 1926
Los Angeles Kings	June 5, 1967
Minnesota North Stars	June 5, 1967
Philadelphia Flyers	June 5, 1967
Pittsburgh Penguins	June 5, 1967
St. Louis Blues	June 5, 1967
Buffalo Sabres	May 22, 1970
Vancouver Canucks	May 22, 1970
Atlanta Flames	June 6, 1972
New York Islanders	June 6, 1972
Kansas City Scouts	June 11, 1974
Washington Capitals	June 11, 1974
Colorado Rockies	Aug. 25, 1976

I read that the Detroit Red Wings acquired Pete Mahovlich during the summer, then saw that Frank Mahovlich, not Pete, was in the Red Wings' training camp. What's going on?

Pat Kenny
Ottawa, Ont.

You're not seeing double. The Brothers Mahovlich both were invited to Red Wings' training camp.

Did Pocket Rocket Henri Richard

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Toronto's
Mike
Palmateer
ranks as
one of
hockey's
best young
goalies

deserve to get into the Hall of Fame last August? Or did he come in on his brother Maurice's coattails?

Bill Edgarson
St. Louis, Mo.

Definitely, Henri Richard deserved induction. He was known primarily as a playmaker rather than a scorer, and he may not have been quite as dynamic as his more famous brother, but Henri was a superior clutch player. Besides, he is sixth on the all time scoring list with 1,046 points on 358 goals and 688 assists. He collected 49 goals and 80 assists in a record number of playoff games, 180.

Could you enlighten me on the arguments going on between Mike Palmateer and the Toronto Maple Leafs over contract?

Joe Goddard
Winnipeg, Man.

Palmateer headed into the option year of his contract wanting — but not receiving — somewhere around \$1.1 million for five years. Al Eagleson, Palmateer's famous attorney, said that getting that much from Toronto "will be a heck of a tough deal." But, added Eagleson, "somebody will pay that for one of the game's best goalies."

I saw where Scotty Bowman did not return to the Montreal Forum this year for the first grudge match with the Buffalo Sabres, his new team. Why?

Bob Crane
Boston, Mass.

Scotty, general-manager-coach of the Sabres, said he was too busy back home tending to the office to run the bench for an exhibition game.

What was Don Cherry's coaching record when he took over the Color-

ado Rockies this season?

Dick Johnston
Minneapolis, Minn.

Cherry had 231 wins, 150 losses and 64 ties in five years with the Boston Bruins for a .657 winning percentage.

Will Scotty Bowman tear up the Buffalo Sabres to start from scratch, or will he prefer to stay with status quo?

Betty O'Brien
Niagara Falls, Ont.

Bowman said, "We're not going to make player changes on the basis of what's happened here before. You have to have patience with a hockey club. The easiest thing in the world is to make a lot of changes and the hardest thing is to make the right ones. My first priority is to get the Sabres to play together. It is basically a good team."

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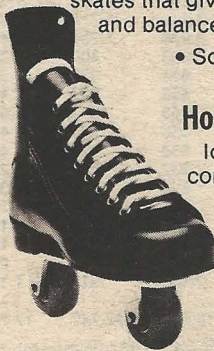
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					For	Against		
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Toronto	3,472	1,569	1,361	542	10,365	9,617	3,680	.530
Boston	3,312	1,533	1,264	515	10,314	9,496	3,581	.541
Detroit	3,246	1,403	1,310	533	9,294	9,069	3,339	.514
NY Rangers	3,246	1,314	1,378	554	9,419	9,740	3,182	.490
Chicago	3,246	1,290	1,434	522	9,077	9,345	3,102	.478
Philadelphia	858	404	286	168	2,780	2,313	976	.569
St. Louis	858	337	375	146	2,427	2,618	820	.478
Los Angeles	858	323	400	135	2,509	2,794	781	.455
Pittsburgh	858	311	401	146	2,665	2,907	768	.448
Minnesota	858	273	436	149	2,370	2,951	695	.405
*Cleveland	858	229	488	141	2,296	3,197	599	.349
Buffalo	632	296	223	113	2,201	1,964	705	.558
Vancouver	632	206	335	91	1,905	2,368	503	.398
NY Islanders	476	201	185	90	1,535	1,408	492	.517
Atlanta	476	192	197	87	1,448	1,464	471	.495
**Colorado	320	66	196	58	857	1,291	190	.297
Washington	320	60	217	43	821	1,468	163	.255
Defunct Clubs	2,408	918	1,175	315	5,635	6,454	2,151	.447
ALL-TIME TOTALS	15,203	12,749	12,749	4,908	89,163	89,163	30,406	

*Totals include California, 1967-68 through 1975-76.

**Totals include Kansas City, 1974-75 through 1975-76.

What is the name of Guy Lafleur's new record?

**Alan Marois
Quebec City, Que.**

You mean phonograph record, we presume. It's an instructional album, set to a disco beat, called, "Lafleur." The album cost \$100,000 to make.

Two questions about the Maple Leafs. Who is their new goalie? What happened between Darryl Sittler and Punch Imlach?

**Bart L. Ogilvie
Toronto, Ont.**

The new goalie is Jiri Crha, a 29-year-old Czech.

The problem between Sittler, the Leafs' captain, and Imlach, the new general manager, stemmed from the Showdown television series.

"Harold Ballard, our owner, is dead against any Leaf player participating

in Showdown because of injuries, and I back him 100 percent," said Imlach. "Last year, Borje Salming broke his finger and missed training camp. Rogie Vachon hurt his knee filming the thing. Showdown is an intense competition for players at a time of the year when they're not ready for it — the beginning of September."

Which team has won the most games in NHL history?

**John Tomick
Chicago, Ill.**

The Montreal Canadiens, through 1978, were the leader. See accompanying chart.

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Why Drive To Sign Hockey Free Agents Has Cooled Off



NOTES, quotes, gloats and whatever happened to the free agent?

There were a couple dozen eminently qualified National Hockey League players eligible to change teams during the summer, but changes in address were conspicuous by their absence. In baseball, if a blue chip goalkeeper like Tony Esposito became available, the line would form to the right. But the Black Hawks' venerable masked man is the first to admit that his telephone did not often ring.

"The reason is there is really no free agent in hockey," said Esposito, who autographed a multi-year contract with Chicago, alas. "Everybody is afraid at what they'll have to give up. It's not the money. It's the compensation."

In baseball, of course, there is no such animal as compensation. Catfish Hunter went from the Oakland A's to the New York Yankees, period. Joe Rudi went from the Oakland A's to the California Angels, period. Sal Bando went from the Oakland A's to the Milwaukee Brewers, period. At no time did the Yankees or Angels or Brewers have to hedge for fear that they would be deprived of a warm body, no less a valuable body, in exchange for what they bought.

Garry Unger, high-scoring forward for the St. Louis Blues, made it known some time ago that he would like to make a move. But his free agent status cooled the ardor of some of his pursuers — at least temporarily.

Unger threatened to sue over restraint of movement, posing a possible Dale McCourt situation all over again.

BEST PRE-SEASON QUOTE: From Pierre Bouchard, the friendly defenseman who plays for the Washington Capitals this season after a restless period with the Montreal Canadiens. Bouchard worked on the Nautilus program all

summer so he could increase his strength and stamina. Said he: "I can now lift a building . . . but I still can't shoot a puck."

SECOND BEST PRE-SEASON QUOTE: To resolve that Dale McCourt mess, the Red Wings traded center Andre St. Laurent to the Kings. Remembering what McCourt did, St. Laurent said: "Well, I can assure you now that they've told me to go to Los Angeles, I'm not going to sue to stay in Detroit."

SHORT STUFF: The big news during the exhibition season was a report that Alan Eagleson was being pressured to resign as executive director of the NHL Players Association. Some of the athletes feel that Eagleson has too many balls in the air, too many conflicts of interest. Eagleson, for the fifteenth time, offered to quit. I can't imagine the players asking Eagleson to work for them only at \$250,000 a year, or whatever. That's a 75 per cent pay cut for him. If the players don't like what he's doing, they better find a successor before they put the squeeze on him.

A half dozen or so officials joined the National Hockey League staff from the World Hockey Association this season. But NHL referee-in-chief Scotty Morrison said that, even though the WHA striped set is experienced, the recruits will be referred to in the NHL as "rookies." Ouch. For this, the WHA paid \$30 million?

Ah, but the merger will have a sedating effect on salaries. In 1972, when the WHA appeared, the average NHL salary was \$31,000. Last year, it skied to \$101,000. "That was by far our highest ever," said NHL president John Ziegler. "We had gate receipts of over \$68 million, yet more than half, about \$35 million, was turned over to players in salary. We must get that figure down to about 40 percent, although 45 is probably livable. The players must realize that, unlike other major sports, we don't have a large sum of money coming in from network television."

There are a couple reasons why the average salary will drop forthwith. There will be no bidding war for the amateur talent just drafted from the junior ranks.

Example: using the WHA as leverage, Greg Joly years back extracted \$800,000-plus from the Washington Capitals for a five-year contract after being selected No. 1 in the amateur draft. Rob Ramage, last year's No. 1 pick following the common (merger) draft, received nowhere near that from the Colorado Rockies. Not that he'll need a tag day. It's just that the Rockies' owners won't have to mortgage Don Cherry's dog Blue just to pay the kid. Another reason for depleted payrolls will be the onset of more two-way contracts. In the past, if you made \$100,000 with the St. Louis Blues, and were sent down to their minor league affiliate, you still made \$100,000.

"As a result," Ziegler explained, "you could only afford to keep a few players on the farm club. With more two-way contracts, stipulating less salary for a player sent from the big club to the minor league club, you'll not only help the payroll situation, but fortify the minor leagues and development in general of hockey players."

STARDOM IN PRO HOCKEY DOESN'T COME EASILY!

*Such greats as Bobby Hull, Guy Lafleur and Phil Esposito
had to struggle to become successful in the NHL*

By **GEORGE VASS**

SOME players burst into the National Hockey League with all the subtlety of a fireworks pinwheel. Two years ago Mike Bossy exploded for 53 goals as a New York Islander rookie. A few years earlier, Rick Martin, whose rookie goal-scoring record Bossy broke, blasted 44 goals in his first year with the Buffalo Sabres.

When defenseman Bobby Orr, at the age of 18, joined the Boston Bruins in 1966-67 he won the Calder (Rookie of the Year) Trophy and was instantly reserved a space in the Hall of Fame. Goalie Ken Dryden was just as quick to impress the Montreal Canadiens. After Dryden had played merely six regular season games, the Canadiens trusted their fortunes to him in Stanley Cup competition and weren't disappointed as he won the Conn Smythe (Most Valuable Playoff Player) Trophy in 1970-71.

Other future superstars also were instant successes, among them Islander center Bryan Trottier, Sabre center Gilles Perreault, Islander defenseman Denis Potvin and, reaching back a lit-

tle in time, Ralph Backstrom, Roger Crozier, Frank Mahovlich, Terry Sawchuck, Boom Boom Geoffrion, Camille Henry and Glenn Hall.

But for most players later acknowledged to be outstanding success didn't come easily. Like those with less inherent talent they had to struggle. It's tough to be great.

Not even Bobby Hull, Guy Lafleur or Phil Esposito, three players generally accepted on any list of the top 10 of the last two decades, had an easy time at the start in the NHL. Nor did other greats such as Bernie Parent, Henri Richard, Gump Worsley, Rod Gilbert, and Johnny Bucyk, just to name a few who struggled.

Take the case of Lafleur, possibly the best of all current players, whose multi-faceted talents rank him with such all-time greats as Gordie Howe, Rocket Richard, Jean Beliveau and Howie Morenz.

By Montreal's exacting standards, Lafleur was almost a "bust" in his first three years with the Canadiens, 1971-72 through 1973-74. His



Guy Lafleur

achievements were just a step above that of an ordinary player, as he scored 29, 28 and 21 goals, and failed to exhibit the leadership through example that was expected of a player who was supposed to fill the niche left vacant by the retirement of Beliveau.

There was no doubt the Canadiens were disappointed in him. After all, he'd scored 130 goals in his last season as a junior and expectations were tremendous. Here was another Rocket, another Beliveau. Instead it seemed

the Canadiens had another good, maybe better than average, player, but certainly not a great one.

Canadien general manager Sam Pollock later said, "People expected too much from him when he joined us. He was the first pick in the first round (1971 amateur draft) and Marcel Dionne and Rick Martin, who were picked after him, were spectacular players who started scoring a lot of

Bobby Hull





Phil Esposito scored only three goals in his first NHL season

goals right away."

Lafleur started much more slowly than Dionne and Martin, and Canadian management, the press and the fans all made it clear they were disappointed. Not until his fourth year, when he scored 53 goals and 66 assists, did Lafleur emerge as a truly great player.

Canadien coach Scotty Bowman, who directed Lafleur's full flowering, explained his view of why it took so long.

"The pressures on him were tremendous at the start, and when he didn't quite perform as it was thought he would, the guy must have been discouraged or disillusioned," said Bowman. "Everybody was expecting too many goals.

"He's the kind of guy that just took a

little time to develop and, of course, I think the pressure hurt him. You want everybody that plays for you to have success but I guess you pull a little more for a guy like that because you know the pressure he's had and you feel that he deserves a better fate."

Lafleur obviously has achieved the "better fate" and is the best all-around player in the game today, an outstanding defensive forward as well as goalscorer, as adept at killing penalties as he is in scoring powerplay goals. No one has more "moves". Ironically, he may owe much of his versatility to his early struggles. At least, Beliveau thinks so.

"I feel that if Guy had scored 45 goals the first year he never would have become the all-around hockey player he is today," said Beliveau. "He was forced to improve each year and he seemed to find ways of doing it when the pressure was put on him."

So, obviously there are benefits to struggling a little at the start because it brings out latent talents that might not have emerged otherwise.

Like Lafleur 15 years later, Bobby Hull failed to live up to expectations when he was brought into the NHL by the Chicago Black Hawks at the tender age of 18 in 1957. For that day and age, he was tremendously publicized because of his scoring exploits as a junior, his wavy blond hair, his good looks, and his obvious impression of great power.

But in his first year, and even his second, Hull was overshadowed by his less flamboyant but also highly talented contemporary, Toronto's Frank Mahovlich, who won the Calder Tro-

phy in 1957-58. Mahovlich checked in with 20 goals his first season, when that was a feat, while Hull had only 13. Even in his second year, Hull came up with only 18 goals. It wasn't until his third season, when he scored 39 goals, that Hull emerged as a true superstar, the spectacular Golden Jet.

A major reason for Hull's slow climb to greatness was that in his first two years he was playing out of position. He started as a center, and only later was shifted to left wing, where he found himself.

"I wouldn't pass the puck," said Hull. "It wasn't that I didn't want to, or couldn't, but I felt it wasn't necessary."

"I suppose my logic must have been, 'if the object is to win, and I can score, why pass the puck?'"

Such "logic" impeded Hull's progress in the NHL, where goals were a lot more difficult to score than in junior hockey. The Hawks had great confidence in Hull's potential, but almost became discouraged because he didn't seem to progress at center, even though they flanked him with veteran wingmen.

"I was playing center with Eric Nesterenko and Ron Murphy on the wings," Hull recalled, "and though it wasn't easy to hog the puck I still managed to hang onto it too often and too long. It was to be a couple of years before I learned about passing."

Actually, it wasn't his increased expertise as a passer that converted Hull from a promising young player into the game's most dynamic star of the '60s. It was rather a decision of Hawk coach Rudy Pilous to move him to left

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wing, where passing wouldn't be as important, and to play him with linemates who would act primarily as "feeders."

The practice reached perfection in the mid-'60s when Hull was teamed with right wing Chico Maki and center Phil Esposito, whom the Golden Jet later described as "the perfect linemates." It was with them that he became the first NHL player to score more than 50 goals, reaching 54 in 1965-66.

Ironically, it was his role as Hull's "feeder" during his first three NHL years that retarded Esposito's rise to the greatness he was later to achieve with the Boston Bruins.

Not that Phil was spectacular even in his limited role at first. Heralded as a great prospect after scoring 26 goals and 54 assists in just 43 games for the Hawks' St. Louis farm club in 1963-64, Esposito played his first NHL game in January 1964, against Montreal. He was no smash hit.

"I was awful," he said. "I didn't get a single shot on goal and was dumped by body checks that shook my fillings loose."

Nevertheless, he persevered, without much success. In 27 games that season he scored only three goals and two assists. The poor showing left him wondering all summer whether the Hawks would farm him out again in the fall.

They didn't. They kept him, and eventually teamed him up with Hull and Maki. His role was to "feed" Hull, and he got good at it. His own scoring rose modestly. He got 23 goals his first full year, 27 the next, and 21 the third. He was considered a fair center, but

certainly no superstar. Most irritating of all, people referred to him as a "garbage collector" because most of his goals came on rebounds at close range.

Esposito's stay with the Hawks ended after the 1966-67 season, partly because of his dismal showing in the Stanley Cup playoffs. He didn't get a point in six playoff games.

Hawk general manager Tommy Ivan, apparently thinking Esposito would never be more than an average player, shipped him off to the Bruins in what since has been regarded as one of the "worst deals" in hockey history.

The indignity of being rejected, and the separation from his good buddy Hull, apparently shocked Esposito into greatness. But in addition to the psychological factors, there was an important bit of advice from Hull that Esposito applied in Boston after having had to put it aside in Chicago because of his role as Bobby's "feeder".

"Bobby used to tell me to pass less and shoot more," Esposito said. "But how can you not pass to a shooter like Bobby? It was when I was traded to Boston that I really adopted his advice."

Esposito also turned to another hint from Hull that helped him to greatness, which reached its apex with his 76 goals and 76 assists in 1970-71.

"I stopped aiming," Esposito explained. "Hull told me that the more time you take to aim at a spot the more chance there is that the goalie will be there first. True, there are times when I have a split-second to aim and I do but in the vast majority of cases I simply let it go when I'm milling around the net."

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G



Henri Richard at first was over-shadowed by his brother's reputation

You can't argue with the reasoning, as Esposito climbs toward the 700-goal mark this season, a plateau reached previously in NHL play only by Gordie Howe.

There's no question now of Esposito's greatness as a hockey player, but there's also no doubt his climb to eminence was difficult.

In a different way, so was that of Henri Richard, the Rocket's "little brother" who was one of the game's greatest "money players" ever.

One of Henri's problems was that he was the Rocket's "little brother," both in size and age. He was completely overshadowed by his elder brother's

reputation and much greater physical endowments. He was only 5-7 and 160 pounds in 1955 when he first reported to the Canadiens' training camp at the age of 19. He was only there because the Canadiens didn't want to irritate the Rocket by rejecting Henri out of hand. Few expected him to make the great Canadian team.

Frank Selke Sr., at the time general manager of the Canadiens, later recalled Henri's early days.

"When we brought him to training camp, we thought it would be nice for Maurice to have his brother with us for a few weeks," Selke said. "But a funny thing happened during that camp. As we watched the practices, every time we looked Henri had the puck.

"All these big fellows were running at this little kid and he was standing up to them, making plays. He wanted to stay with us."

Henri did that, though never a great goal scorer, seldom getting more than 20 or so a season. But he was a great Canadian for 18 years and played on 11 Stanley Cup winners, more than any other man. And, more often than not, he put in the Cup winning goals.

Selke later said, "During my years with the Canadiens I was blessed with a lot of superior hockey players. But game in, game out, Henri Richard was the most valuable player I ever had."

This may be true, but Richard's climb to such high estimation by Selke — and many others — wasn't easy. The road to superstardom was much harder for him than for the Rocket. He built his reputation season by season, by diligence and production

at crucial moments, rather than by continual spectacular achievement.

In similar fashion, goalies Parent and Worsley, and forwards Bucyk and Gilbert also built their reputations slowly.

Parent made no great impressions with the Bruins when he first came up to the NHL in 1965-66. He spent parts of two seasons with them, then was unprotected in the NHL expansion draft of 1967 to be taken by the newborn Philadelphia Flyers.

He wasn't broken up about leaving Boston, where "the way the fans were booing me, I'd go home and ask myself, 'What's a nice guy like you doing in a place like this?'"

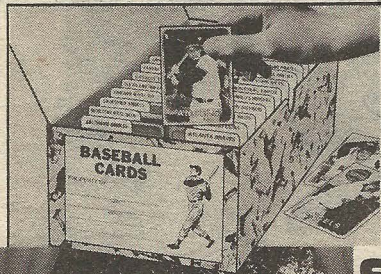
His years at Philadelphia need no recounting. He became the game's outstanding goalie for a time, the Fly-

ers winning two Stanley Cups in front of him.

Worsley, of course, was almost a gypsy goalie before he became a standout for the Canadiens in the '60s, playing a major role on several Stanley Cup winners. Bucyk, though always a prolific scorer, gained stature only in the latter part of his career at Boston, and eventually became one of the few 500-goal scorers in the game's history.

New York Ranger superstar Gilbert's early years were plagued with back problems. At times he faltered, dipping to 10 goals in his fourth season. But slowly he began to reach the heights and now ranks as one of the greatest Rangers of all time.

No, hockey stardom is not always easy to attain.



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BOBBY CLARKE: HE STILL LOVES TO PLAY THE GAME!

At age 30 and with 10 NHL seasons behind him, Flyers' captain continues to perform with 'total effort'

By BARRY WILNER

"THE one thing you must understand about Bobby Clarke is that he never does anything with less than a full effort. He'd try anything and succeed at it. If he was a truck driver, or a mechanic or a plumber, he'd put 100 percent into it every day."

The man talking is Fred Shero, former coach of the Clarke-led Philadelphia Flyers and one of the people who best knows the energetic center. Shero readily admits that the Flyers couldn't have won two Stanley Cups nor been a contender for several others had Clarke not been around.

"Bobby inspires everybody by example," says Shero. "If he gives total effort, so should everyone else. And they do."

But for how long will Clarke be able to work his magic? Lately that question has arisen in many places because the three-time most valuable player in the NHL may be nearing the end of his wondrous career — and doing so more quickly than he, or any-

one else associated with the Flyers cares to admit.

Ironically, Clarke's problems stem from the past, just as his most glorious moments are history. Usually, with a player of Clarke's fire and determination, statistics don't mean much. But Clarke won't ever lose those qualities, even when he's 50 years old and playing in a club league. So a look at the numbers seems revealing.

Clarke's durability is amazing, especially in light of his being a diabetic since he was 15. Five times he has played Philadelphia's entire schedule, including last year. He has missed only a handful of games, many of them with an aching knee two seasons ago.

But in 1978-79, despite being present in the lineup every night, Clarke wasn't always at full strength. It showed particularly in wide-open games, the type the Flyers rarely engaged in when at their peak, but contests that seemed the rule rather than the exception last year.

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There were nights when Clarke appeared to have trouble skating a full shift and he was stripped of the puck far more often than ever before. He had only 16 goals; only one was a game-winner. His 57 assists still led the Flyers but was his lowest total in five years. His 73 points were his least since 1970-71.

Granted the Flyers weren't exactly tearing up the league. And they did rally under Pat Quinn, who replaced Bob McCammon as coach in midseason, to finish second in the Patrick Division. Yet, for the first time others, like Bill Barber, Mel Bridgman and Behn Wilson were at least equal contributors to Philadelphia's charge. In fact, it wouldn't be unfair to say they were more important to the Flyers down the stretch than Clarke was.

This is not to belittle Clarke, who still is the finest defensive center in hockey. He's probably the greatest two-way player in the history of the NHL. And it is quite possible Clarke's offensive contributions declined last season because he needed to concentrate more on checking, which is no longer Philadelphia's forte.

In the long run, it may be Clarke's strongest virtue — his ability to go less than full speed — that could end his career prematurely.

Clarke is 30, often the beginning age for a player's prime. But, at 30, it is very possible, even likely, that Clarke's best years are behind him. The incredible efforts he put into his first decade with the Flyers may have stripped him of the energy to continue.

Bobby Clarke needs to pace himself. And it is doubtful he knows how.

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D



Bobby Clarke wants to be on another Stanley Cup winner

Would people recognize that kind of a Clarke anyway? Tenacity is a favorite word in sports and, in hockey, it could be spelled CLARKE. Would a slightly less tenacious Clarke be acceptable to the fans? Would they understand Bobby's predicament? Would they prefer the old Clarke for maybe two more seasons, then lose him because he'd burned out? Or would they be satisfied with a slightly modified Clarke, one who still does it all — checking, passing, scoring, leading — but with a few respites in between?

How would his teammates react to a less involved Clarke? People in the Flyers organization like to say that Bridgman and Wilson have exhibited the leadership qualities a team needs.

But could they really replace Clarke? Would they dare while he remains active?

All of these questions probably will remain unanswered. It is absurd to think Clarke, the ultimate 200 percenter, could become anything less, even if it would prolong his illustrious career.

How does Clarke react to entering his second decade of professional hockey? With the same enthusiasm he brought to Philadelphia from Flin Flon, Manitoba in 1969.

"I still love to play," he says. "I guess hockey always will be in my blood. I've given so much to it and it has given me so much in return.

"My biggest worry is that I won't be around when the Flyers are ready to win the Stanley Cup again. Once you've tasted victory, you want to do it again and again. I just hope I can still help when we're in a position to win it again.

"It's something I think about all the time — winning just one more Stanley Cup."

Spoken like a man who sees the end of the road but would like to find a detour to prolong the journey.

"When I feel I'm starting to slip, that will be it," Clarke admits. "I don't want to hang around. I admire Gordie Howe. I think what he's done is great, for him. For me, no way will I stay beyond being useful."

Clarke notices a difference in these Flyers from those of the championship years. Not just in talent, either.

"We have to find that special something that made us winners," he says, perhaps overlooking that word that

best describes what the champion Flyers had: tenacity. "The last couple of years a lot of us weren't taking the risks, those extra steps that are the difference in a championship team. Too many of us got comfortable after being in the league awhile and having accomplished so much."

That something special never has eluded Clarke. How long he can hang onto it is the key question now.

"He's the symbol of what the perfect player should be," says Darryl Sittler, a center for the Toronto Maple Leafs who has a style much like Clarke's. "I don't know where he gets all the energy but it's amazing. I hope he keeps it up."

"Sometimes I think Clarke doesn't know how really good he is," says Stan Mikita of Chicago, one of the most

formidable centers in the game. "I don't think he knows he's doing the things he does. It's probably subconscious, just his natural way."

"Clarke fits the mold of the perfect, complete player because he is so unselfish," wrote Boris Kulagin, one of the top hockey coaches in the Soviet Union. "He never stops trying but what is important is that he does everything for a purpose. He makes every move count for his team."

At this stage of this career, perhaps the best move Clarke could make for the Flyers — and, of course, for himself — would be to accept a few less shifts in a game. Or take a day off from practice now and again. No one in the game, not even his opponents, who respect him as much as anyone, wants to see a fizzling Bobby Clarke. ■

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STEVE SHUTT: HE'S MORE THAN A 'GARBAGE COLLECTOR'

In lingering around the goal mouth, Montreal star has learned how precise timing can pay off in a score

By **RICK BOULTON**

*Reprinted from
Toronto Maple Leaf Magazine*

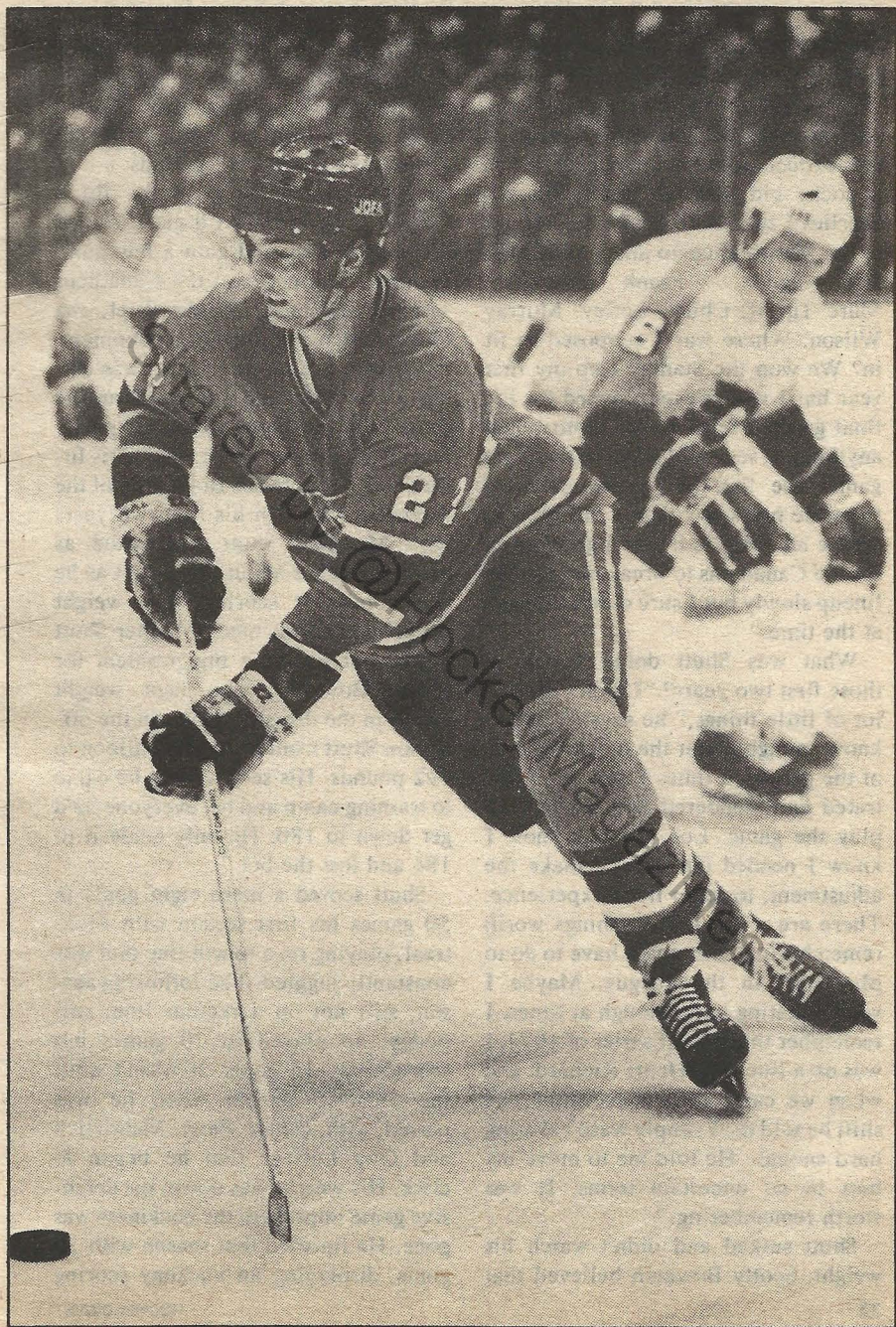
EXPERIENCE is a marvelous thing. Some businessmen believe that you probably make more mistakes — and, as a consequence, learn more — in the first year or so of your career than during any other. You hope that not too many people noticed the things you did wrong, and if you're a butcher, baker or candlestick maker perhaps not too many care. If you're a pro hockey player, however, it is another matter. Make a few mistakes in that first year or two and you've got millions of people on your back. The Leafs' Lanny McDonald and Montreal's Guy Lafleur had problems during their early years. So did Steve Shutt.

Forgotten, somehow, during his scoring heroics of the past seasons, is the fact that a few short years ago Shutt was just plain old Steve Shutt, riding the Montreal Canadiens' bench. What mistakes was he making then? How did he profit from experience? How did he become one of the top scorers in hockey?

Well, as the 26-year-old Shutt will

admit in this his seventh season with the Canadiens, his attitude wasn't good in the early days. He was unhappy at not earning a regular spot and as he sat on the bench he got despondent. He also got a little pudgy (he was 10 pounds overweight at one stage). He quarreled with coach Scotty Bowman and asked to be traded. Billy Harris of the Islanders, who played Junior A with Shutt on the Marlboros, says, "Shuttie wasn't even happy at being picked by the Canadiens. He figured he just wouldn't get to play much the first few years, and he was right. We were very close, we spent time together in the off-season and he was really miserable. Scotty [Bowman] was really down on him. It hurt his confidence. In those days I got all the ink and he wasn't getting any of it. I think he would have switched places with me. Now, of course, he's burning up the league."

"It was a heck of an experience, those early years," recalls Shutt, who smiles a lot when answering a writer's questions. "There were many frustrat-



ing times that I'd rather forget. I wanted to be a regular and I wasn't. There's no doubt that I didn't have the patience that the Canadiens' organization expects guys to have. I guess I was a cocky kid; my last year with the Marlies I scored 70 goals. Then I got to the Montreal camp and counted the left wingers — Frank Mahovlich, Marc Tardif, Chuck Lefley, Murray Wilson. Where was I supposed to fit in? We won the Stanley Cup my first year but I wasn't even dressed for the final game. I felt I hadn't contributed anything. It seemed I spent more of my games the first two years watching from the press box than I did playing on the ice. Maybe it was a good move for the Canadiens to break me into the lineup slowly but I sure didn't think so at the time."

What was Shutt doing wrong in those first two years? "I didn't know a lot of little things," he says. "I didn't know enough about the defensive side of the game. At times I was very frustrated and wondered if I could even play the game. Looking back now I know I needed the time to make the adjustment, to learn from experience. There are a lot of little things worth remembering, things you have to do to play well in this league. Maybe I wasn't skating hard enough at times. I remember the playoff series of 1974, I was on a line with Henri Richard, and when we came off the ice after one shift he told me I simply wasn't skating hard enough. He told me to move my butt in no uncertain terms. It was worth remembering."

Shutt sulked and didn't watch his weight. Scotty Bowman believed that

at 190 pounds Shutt was at least a dozen pounds overweight, too slow to play effectively with the swift-skating Habs. (One playoff year he *did* get down to a trim 178 pounds — "I caught a terrific dose of the flu.") "When I didn't play I'd get browned off, take it easy and gain a few more pounds." At one point the Canadiens actually assigned Claude Ruel, the club's director of player development, to keep an eye on what Shutt was eating. If he ordered a hot dog from the press room during a game, the portly Ruel would make a note of it in his little black book. Notes Bob Dunn of the *Montreal Star*: "In his first two years with Montreal Shutt was asked as many questions about his weight as he was about his scoring. The weight problem never seemed to bother Shutt much, but it was a big problem for Scotty Bowman, who kept weight charts in the dressing room. In the off-season Shutt would actually balloon to 192 pounds. His second year he came to training camp and bet everyone he'd get down to 180. He only made it to 184 and lost the bet."

Shutt scored a mere eight goals in 50 games his first season with Montreal, playing on a fourth line that was constantly juggled. The following season, still not on a regular line, still pudgy, he played in 70 games but scored only 15 goals. It wasn't until the 1974-75 season when he was paired with center Peter Mahovlich and Guy Lafleur that he began to click. His weight was down, his defensive game improved, the cockiness was gone. He finished that season with 30 goals, displaying an uncanny scoring

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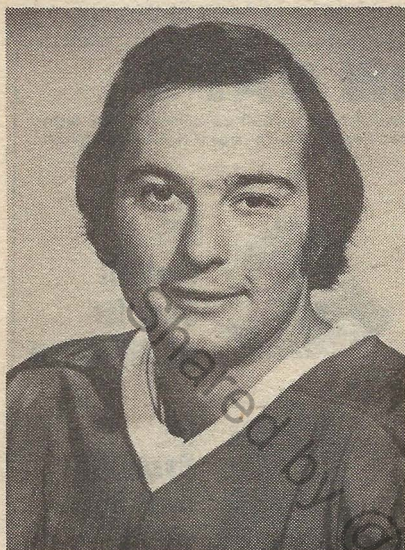
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TO ORDER USE COUPON ON PAGE 91



Steve Shutt

touch around the net. Bill Torrey, the New York Islander GM who selected Billy Harris ahead of Shutt in the 1972 amateur draft, says: "Coming out of junior Stevie was just a little pudgie guy who didn't backcheck much. Harris was the all-rounder, the playmaker and checker as well as scorer. But Stevie now has that fire and smoke that he didn't have before. He moves well and he's a great potter for the Canadiens."

Fire and smoke. If he continues to score goals the way he did the last few seasons he is sure to become a superstar. In his early days — helmeted, stocky and with a bent-over skating style — he didn't seem flashy. But last season he seemed as fast as Lafleur, as deadly around the net as Rocket Richard.

He always had the touch around the

net. Born and raised in Toronto, he played in the Marlboro chain for seven years. He grew up in the same neighborhood as Billy Harris. They played road hockey together and practiced shooting for hours on end. In the winter, when they weren't playing organized hockey, Shutt, his three brothers and neighborhood kids (Harris among them) played on a hockey rink Shutt's dad made in the backyard. Floodlights were hooked up so the kids could play into the night. In summers Shutt and Harris would draw hockey nets with chalk on the school wall and practice shooting from different distances and angles, often all day.

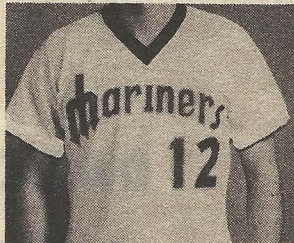
Frank Bonello, who became the Marlboro coach in 1970-71, put Dave Gardner, a thin, gangly center, between Shutt and Harris and the line terrorized junior hockey for the next two seasons, totaling 333 goals and 378 assists for 711 points. Shutt scored 113 of them. Montreal made Shutt their first pick in the 1972 amateur draft, using Los Angeles' first-round choice, acquired in a prior deal that sent goaltender Gerry Desjardins to the Kings. Former GM Sammy Pollock, hockey's foremost trader, took Shutt (fourth overall) and Gardner (eighth) in the first round. Gardner didn't work out and was traded by the Canadiens, but Pollock turned down an offer from the New York Islanders for Shutt when he was playing with Montreal's American Hockey League farm team in Nova Scotia. Says Islander GM Torrey: "I threw Sam a few bones for Shutt in the early years when he wasn't getting the ice time. Sam thought it was a good idea to re-unite

the Marlie line but he wanted to do it in Montreal. Now he's asking us about Harris. Some chance."

Shutt promises to be an even greater goal scorer in future. "I've got my confidence now," he says. "Confidence is the key to success in everything and when you haven't got it you're in trouble. It's hard to get back on track again. I'm also getting my shot away quicker. And I'm getting luckier. You need a few of those for a 60-goal season. Sneaky might be the word for a few of the goals. Lemaire and Lafleur pass it around a lot in the other guy's end. I guess everyone's attention is drawn to them or back to the point men. I sort of slip off to the side of the goal and keep my eyes open. A lot of people don't notice me out there, I know that. But at the end of the game just look at me and I'll have a goal and two assists. I'm usually in the right place at the right time. It's not being in front of the net that's important. Anyone can get in front of the net. It's knowing when to be in front of the net, when to pounce. Split-second timing."

Some writers don't understand this. Last season one writer called Shutt "a garbage collector, pure and simple." He alleged that most of Shutt's goals were the result of hard work by someone else. "Well," says Shutt, laughing, "it's a wonderful thing being a goal scorer. I'm not individually a good player but I work hard. I can't stick-handle through a team like Pete Mahovich or skate circles around people like Guy Lafleur. I've just been lucky, that's all. I just pray that I can keep healthy. Because this game is all I know. It's this or nothing."

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DARCY ROTA: A NEW LEASE ON LIFE WITH THE FLAMES

By RICK SORCI

*One-time Chicago
Black Hawk is
grateful for
his trade to
Atlanta*

OF the numerous challenges professional athletes endure during their careers, being traded from one team to another is one task most would rather avoid.

For some players, however, a change of scenery is just the tonic needed to get an infamous career in high gear.

Darcy Rota, left winger of the Atlanta Flames, is a case in point. After having spent nearly six seasons with the Chicago Black Hawks, Rota has suddenly found the scoring touch he possessed as a highly acclaimed junior prospect.

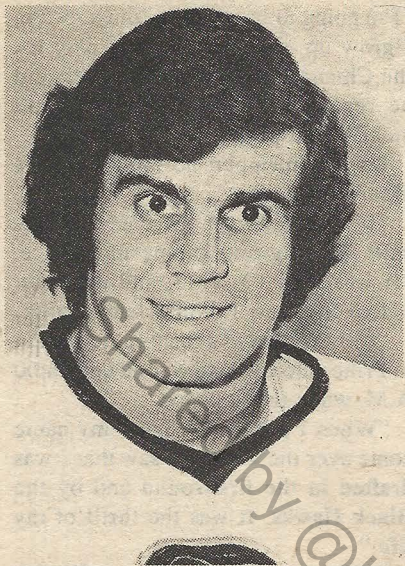
Darcy got his new lease on life in the National Hockey League last March when the Hawks dealt him, Ivan Boldirev and Phil Russell to the Flames for Tom Lysiak, Greg Fox, Harold Phillipoff, Pat Ribble and Mile Zaharko.

The trade enabled Rota to shed the harness of the Black Hawks defensive-style of play. It also gave him the chance to prove that, yes indeed, he was capable of scoring large quantities of goals, when allowed to play on a more offensive-minded team.

The trade itself, didn't go over very big with any of the players involved, nor did the fans in Chicago relish the parting of three of their favorite players. Rota, at the time, was completely surprised, most definitely hurt, and otherwise sad to be leaving Chicago.

"I really loved playing there," he said. "The fans were always nice to me. I think the trade was a shock to everybody."

When the news of the trade, which was consummated just under the trading



deadline, began to spread, Chicago fans became irate. Many banners draped the balconies at Chicago Stadium showing their disapproval of the deal. One sign read, "Wirtz the matter with you?" An obvious shot at Arthur M. Wirtz, owner of the Hawks. Another read, "18 - 5 - 12 R.I.P." The numbers referring to those worn by the departing trio.

What added insult to injury was the fact that the Black Hawks newcomers couldn't find the net, while Rota and Boldirev couldn't miss.

In the 13 games he appeared as a Flame, Darcy tallied nine goals and added five assists, while Boldirev had six goals and eight assists. It took the pressure off the players now situated in Atlanta, while it added to the burden of the players dispatched to Chicago.

Although disappointed at the time,

Rota is happy the way the trade turned out and feels as if the move may have been a blessing in disguise.

"Anytime you leave a city like Chicago, it has to be disappointing," he said. "But here in Atlanta I'm getting the chance to play with a more offensive-minded team. In Chicago, the whole emphasis was on defense first and if the opportunity was there, then think offense."

When the Black Hawks tabbed Rota as their number one choice in the 1973 draft (13th pick overall in the draft), he was coming off a 73-goal, 56-assist season with Edmonton of the Western Canadian Junior Hockey League.

The Black Hawks, desperate for scoring punch on the left side with the departure of Bobby Hull to the fledgling World Hockey Association, were hoping Rota could fill Hull's big shoes. Much to nobody's surprise, it never happened quite like they planned it.

"When I joined the Hawks I had to learn their style of play," said Darcy. "It wasn't easy because, in the juniors, we never concentrated that much on defense. I realized, in order to play on this team, I had to be more conscious of the man I was playing against. My job was to stop him from scoring, first, and score goals second."

Compounding this problem was Rota's coach, Billy Reay, a man who didn't always show the greatest amount of patience when a rookie made a mistake on the ice.

"Billy was from the 'old school' of coaches," said Darcy. "If I made a mistake, I knew I'd probably be sitting at the end of the bench for the rest of

the game."

However, Rota claims Reay worked with him on his game, helped him become a better defensive player and, generally, helped him become a better, all-around player.

"Today, I feel like I'm a much better player than I ever was," he said. "Pully (Bob Pulford, Darcy's coach last year at Chicago), the same. He really helped me a lot when I played for him. I feel, because of them, I'm a complete hockey player."

Rota, who was born in Vancouver and raised in Prince George, B.C., like most players in the NHL, started playing hockey at a tender age.

"I played in my first league when I was seven-years-old," said Rota.

It was right around this time that the youthful Darcy made the statement,

"I'm going to be a hockey player when I grow up, and I'm going to play for the Chicago Black Hawks." Little did he realize that the statement would make him a prophet.

Darcy remembers how and when his dream came true.

"I'll never forget the date," he recalls, smiling and gazing into space. "It was May 17, 1973, and the night before the draft I didn't sleep a wink."

"I went down to a local radio station in Prince George and waited until 6:00 A.M. when they opened."

"When I got inside, I saw my name come over the wire, and saw that I was drafted in the first-round and by the Black Hawks. It was the thrill of my life."

During his tenure with the Hawks, Darcy scored 117 goals and had 110 assists. However, this is all in the past.

"I'm really excited about this team," says Darcy, of the Flames. "We're a team people are going to have to worry about. We have a great coach in Al MacNeil, great goaltending, and a team with lots of size and speed."

Rota's most productive season to date was in 1976-'77, when he scored 24 goals and had 22 assists. He thinks he can do better.

"Well, I'm not one to make predictions," he said, "but I know I can out-do my 24-goal season. I KNOW I can." Others feel the same.

Tom Bladon, defenseman with the Pittsburgh Penguins, and a former teammate of Rota's at Edmonton said, "As a junior he seemed to be a better skater. With the Black Hawks, he didn't seem to get very much ice-time."

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He can score a lot of goals, though."

"He always seems to play well against us," said Butch Goring of the Los Angeles Kings. "He's got a great shot."

Rota feels that, because of the defensive-oriented style of the Black Hawks, he wasn't able to concentrate on putting the puck into the net.

"It took me awhile to get used to their system," he said. "I wasn't used to that style of play, and until I learned it, even after, I didn't get to play regularly."

"Darcy's a better defensive player than a lot of people give him credit for," says Boldirev. "And, he's a great team-player."

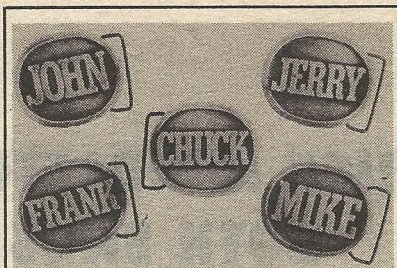
Rota, not one to shy away when the going gets rough, believes in being clannish, as far as a team is concerned.

"When a teammate is down or needs help, you've got to come in and back him up — even if it means you get beat up yourself," he said. "Show them that you're a team."

As for his future beyond hockey, the 26-year old Rota would like to get into real estate.

"I worked for a firm in Chicago this past summer," he said. "Who knows what will happen when I'm through playing? I don't even want to think about it now. I do know that I love playing hockey and thank God for the talent he has given me."

As for the Black Hawks, a team he'll probably always have a soft spot in his heart for, Darcy stated, "I liked playing for them, and I don't hold any grudges against them because of the trade. In fact, I thank them for trading me to such a good team as Atlanta." ■

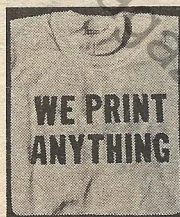


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RICK MIDDLETON: HE WORKS BOTH ENDS OF THE ICE

Bruins' forward is acknowledged as one of the smoothest two-way operators in the National Hockey League

By **BOB DUFFY**
The Boston Herald-American



TWO years later, the incident is etched indelibly in his ears.

"We were in Buffalo," Rick Middleton said as he tried to recover his hearing. "An important game. We're up, 2-0. Somehow they get a 2-on-1 against me. It's (Danny) Gare and (Bill) Hajt coming in. Now Gare's the sharpshooter and Hajt gets about four goals a year. I go for Gare. So he dumps the puck over to Hajt and Hajt goes in for the score. I'm thinking, 'Oh, no, here it comes.' I go back to the bench and he's standing over me, just screaming, it must have lasted 30 seconds. I'm just hoping the TV cameras aren't on me."

The harangue came courtesy of Don Cherry, Middleton's chief tormentor at the time.

But, now Middleton can laugh. At 25, he has completed his finest season.

He is acknowledged as one of the smoothest two-way operators in the league. He was the NHL leader in plus-minus percentage for the first half of last season, a tribute to his backchecking dedication. And his one

time coach and tormentor, a fellow named Don Cherry, salutes him as "one of the most exciting players you'll see when he's going good."

Which is music to Middleton's ears, or what's left of them.

When he came to Boston from the New York Rangers in exchange for Ken Hodge on May 26, 1976, Middleton's scoring proficiency was indisputable. He has scored 22 goals in 47 games in a rookie season curtailed by a broken ankle, and he had connected 24 times the next year.

"He has magic hands," said Cherry. "He has that touch. Everybody could see that."

But he was also confused.

"After I broke the ankle," said Middleton, "I came back fine physically. But mentally something was wrong. I can't say what it was. I just know I wasn't playing my game."

Beyond that, Cherry's concept of what his new right winger's game should be was the antithesis of Middleton's.

Very simply, Cherry wanted a forward who could function effectively at both ends of the ice, who could attack the opposing goalie without abandoning his own.

To Middleton, the defensive zone was foreign territory.

"Offense was all I knew when I came up," said Middleton. "I'd never been taught any differently. There was no real system of forechecking. I don't know if they expected you to know what to do on your own or what, but I was playing the only way I knew. And nobody (in the Ranger organization) ever complained. When I came to New

York, I was fast. I got off to a fast start. I had 18 goals by Christmas. I thought that's all I had to do for the rest of my life."

Cherry had other ideas, which he articulated in megadecibels. He became Middleton's personal transistor radio.

"He was so used to floating around that he expected to do the same thing here," said Cherry. "He's such a good skater and such a smart player that he could always play both ways. But it's not a fun way to play. It's no fun blocking shots or taking the body — until you skate off the ice a winner."

Actually, it wasn't that Middleton didn't want to play Cherry's way.

"I thought I was making the right plays," he said. "When you're out there, you have to think fast, and I honestly thought I was doing the right things. Then I'd come back to the bench and he'd be there yelling and bitching and screaming."

"A lot of screaming," said Cherry. "Every time. Ev-e-ry time. It took about three months . . . of abuse."

Finally, an exasperated — and hard of hearing — Middleton decided to surrender. Conditionally.

"I said to myself, 'The hell with it. I'll do exactly what he wants me to do.'" said Middleton. "Don only saw black and white out there, and his way was the only right way. I figured if I got beaten on a play, at least I was doing it his way, and what could he say then?"

"But you know something? It always seemed to work. It never ceases to amaze me, but it worked.

So does Middleton. At both ends of the ice.

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BOOM BOOM GEOFFRION: BACK IN THE 'PRESSURE COOKER'

By WILLIAM LANGE

*After a stint in
Atlanta, former
Canadien star
returns to coach
his old team*

IT was a fairly cushy job he had in Atlanta. Color man for the Flames' broadcasts. Not much pressure, lots of laughs, a decent night's sleep, win, lose or tie.

But when Boom Boom Geoffrion fielded the call, he couldn't resist. Being coach of the Stanley Cup Montreal Canadiens was surely an offer he couldn't refuse.

"This is a dream come true," said the Boomer. "This is the team I played for, this is the team I love, and this is the team that I intend of finish my career with."

The Boomer had coached the New York Rangers in 1968, but had to bow out because the job literally made him sick to his stomach. He was also coach and chief salesman for hockey in the South, having piloted the Flames for 2 1/2 seasons until quitting in 1975. There was no reason given for his departure then. Geoffrion says he will take it to his grave, that only he and his wife know why. The suspicious say it was the same reason as the first time. Bad boiler.

But, whatever you do, don't run into the curly-haired, amiable 48-year-old Hall of Famer and wish him good health. Not unless you want a dirty look.

"I'm sick . . . I don't mean sick sick . . . I'm sick and tired of all this talk about my health," said Geoffrion. "I feel 150 percent better than when I was playing. I've had all my (ulcer) problems taken care of. I can eat anything I want now. I just don't eat as much. I can't. So not only don't I get sick anymore. I don't get fat."

The Boomer would not likely get fat



Bernie Geoffrion

in Montreal anyway. The coaching job with Les Canadiens is the most pressurized in sports, because the customers are fastidious, and demanding.

Moreover, the Canadiens have won four straight Stanley Cups, so if he doesn't make it five, he's a failure. Not only that, the Canadiens have lost two valuable players from their Cup chemistry — Ken Dryden, the schoolish goalie; and Jacques Lemaire, the stylish, underrated centerman. Last but not least, there was a right wing in the Canadiens' training camp who bore a strong facial resemblance to Boom Boom. For good reason. Danny Geoffrion is the coach's

son.

"No problem," said Dad, who had a 99-110-42 National Hockey League coaching record. "Off the ice, he's my son. On the ice, he's just another player."

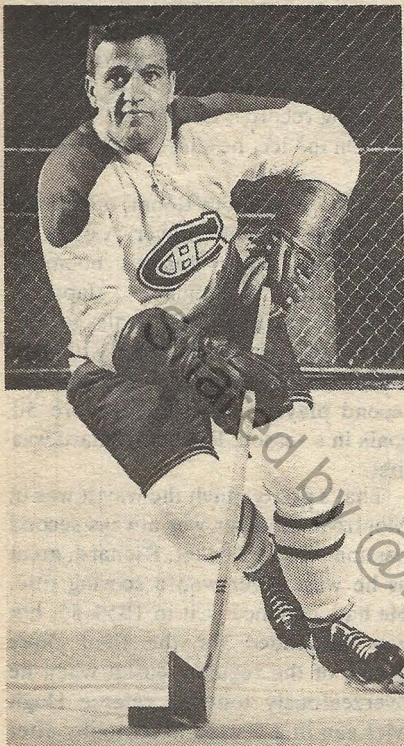
On the ice, Boom Boom, of course, was not just another player. A colorful right wing known for his booming (thus the nickname) slapshot, Geoffrion scored 393 goals in his career, 371 of which came with Les Canadiens. In 1961, he became the second player in history to score 50 goals in a season; Rocket Richard was first.

That's pretty much the way it was in Montreal. Boomer was always second banana to The Rocket. Richard, great as he was, never won a scoring title. He had a chance at it in 1954-55, but was suspended for the final three games of the regular season when he overzealously touched referee Hugh McLean in a Boston hotel lobby after a game one night.

While fans of the Canadiens rooted against him — yes, against him — Geoffrion continued to do what came naturally. Score. He won the title with 75 points; Rocket wound up with 74.

Boomer won another, more important battle by a close shave. After being injured during practice in a collision with Andre Pronovost, Geoffrion was rushed to the hospital with a ruptured bowel. He was given Last Rites. They weren't required. Boom Boom is very much alive, to this day, and always has been.

"We were roommates with the Canadiens most of the time," said Jean Beliveau, now vice president of the



With the Canadiens, Geoffrion played right wing and was noted for his booming slap shot.

club. "And every time he went into the shower, he sang so loud you couldn't think."

"I remember," said Doug Harvey, onetime great defenseman with the Habs, "when we were in the playoffs against Chicago and Boomer had a cast on his knee. We were on the train going to play the Black Hawks and we decided, what the hell, let's cut it off. We went into the Pullman car and sawed the thing off. The next night, he played but Bobby Hull ran into him, and Boom was hurt again."

Geoffrion, three-quarters of his stomach removed, is gray now, but still somewhat flamboyant. He dresses immaculately, speaks loudly and is full of spunk.

"But things don't bother me as much as they used to," said Boomer. "I have a lot of pressure on me, but I won't feel it like I used to and it won't affect me like it used to. I've learned a lot about myself.

"I sat down with my wife Darlene one day last summer and told her that I can accept whatever happens to me now. I didn't know how to live. I didn't know how to cope for all that time. I'm 48 and I've done almost everything possible, except be humble.

"I wanted to be humble. I wanted to accept the truth about me. I couldn't before. The day suddenly I knew I could. I realized all the mistakes I had made in my life and knew I wouldn't make them again. I always say, 'never look back,' and I never will."

Boom Boom Geoffrion, the man in the beer commercials, doesn't drink anymore. At least not like he used to. He no longer swears. Smoke, yes. Heck, you can't give up everything.

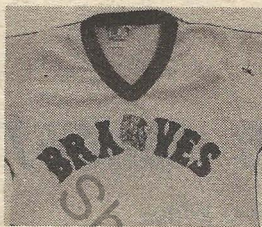
"I'm still a discipline-type guy," he said. "I will discipline the Canadiens because I will treat them like my family. They are a family. My job with the Canadiens will be easy for one reason. They are champions. They have pride."

His wife, Marlene, agrees.

"Boom Boom used to get annoyed at the little things," she said, "but no more. He is ready for this job. He can do it. It is a big job. But he can do it."

A big job, indeed. ■

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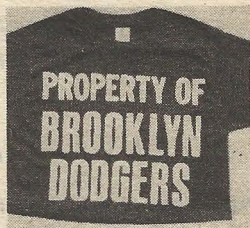


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THE GAME I'LL NEVER FORGET

*Five-goal effort against the Detroit Red Wings
in 1977 at Maple Leaf Gardens stands out in memory*

By IAN TURNBULL

As Told To GEORGE VASS

THERE'S no way I can forget it because I've got a silver tea service from Leafs management to remind me of the night I scored five goals against Detroit.

Seriously, while I appreciate the significance people attach to hockey records, I can't say that scoring five goals in a game has changed me. I don't see how it could.

Hockey players are portrayed to be living in a dream world, but it's simply not true. Most of them view themselves as just earning a living like most people, though I suppose they have more fun than many people do in other professions.

I can truthfully say the glitter and glamor of being a hockey player simply doesn't affect me because I never believed in it in the first place. Personally, I don't think hockey players should be idolized the way we are. Sure, hockey is in the public eye, I can see that. But it's really just a job.

I've never been one for seeking

much attention. It's not something I enjoy. I don't even like to see my name in print, though I'm sure I would like it if it was in connection with the Leafs winning a Stanley Cup. But that's yet to come, and I hope it's not too far in the future.

Until that time, I'm sure that the outstanding game of my career will remain the one against Detroit (February 2, 1977) in Maple Leaf Gardens in which I broke the record for goals scored by a defenseman. The record of four had stood many years so the press really played up my achievement.

I can't say that any of the five goals was particularly significant because we beat Detroit 9-1 that night. In fact, if I remember right, that month we were scoring goals in clusters against everyone—the trouble is we were giving up almost as many.

I guess I sort of typified the Leafs that season. Offense always came naturally to me. I had to think more about defense. I know the coaches are

usually after me to stay back a little more and I think I've been doing that year-by-year. But I have to make mental notes not to go up too much, because my natural style is to get the puck and go. I might be getting a little smarter now about chancing a risky play. I'm becoming a little more defensive.

That night there was no reason to complain about our defense, since we gave up only one goal. In fact, it looked at the beginning like it was going to be a tight-checking game all

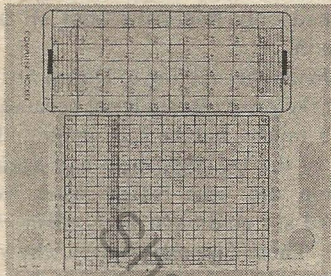
the way. Neither team scored in the first period. I know I didn't have a shot on net. In fact, at the end of the game I'd had only five shots—but all had gone in.

I remember talking to Darryl Sittler after the game. He sat it out because of a rib injury, but he said it reminded him of the big night he'd had against Boston the year before when he'd scored six goals and four assists. He said, 'There's no explanation why you suddenly have a game like that. It happens when it happens.' That's the way

Leafs' Turnbull set a record for defensemen in his five-goal game.



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I looked at it, too.

I can't describe each goal in detail. They just kept going in on Eddie Giacomini, who was the Detroit goalie that night.

The first one came early in the second period, after which we got three more goals. My second goal closed out a five-goal second period.

One of my two goals in the second period—I don't remember which one—was just lucky. I took a shot and it deflected off a Detroit defenseman's skates into the net.

After getting two goals with a period left to play it's only natural to think of a hat trick, even if you're a defenseman, and I'm sure it crossed my mind.

It didn't take me long to get it, the third goal coming early in the third period. We were ahead 6-0 at that point so I guess Detroit opened up, which must have increased our opportunities to score. I got my fourth goal, then my fifth, the only one I really remember in any detail.

That fifth goal, the one that broke the record, was one I didn't even take a shot on. Stan Weir let one go and it hit me as I was skating in front of the net and bounced off me past Giacomini. Again, there was nothing he could do about it. He never had a chance.

It was just one of those nights when everything goes in. It was like a good day at the race track. I wish that the track had been going that afternoon. I probably would have cleaned up.

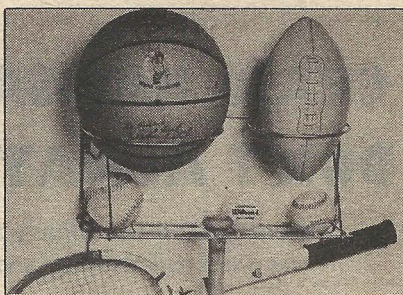
I know I didn't do anything differently than I had been doing. We stuck to the style of play we'd been using, which probably increased my scoring opportunities. It called for our wingers

to pick up their wingers at their blue-line rather than going deep to fore-check.

That meant our wingers were more checkers than puck-carriers, so it meant our defensemen had to be more mobile and got more of a chance to carry the puck.

But there's no explaining for why you have a game like that. It just happens, and it happened to me that night, like it had happened to Sittler the year before.

It got a lot of attention, that's for sure. And I understand it even if I'm not seeking it. I'm not in hockey for publicity. I don't care if I'm ever remembered as a hockey player. I don't care if the fans remember me or what I accomplished. But I suppose they'll remember this game. I will. ■



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CRAIG RAMSAY: NICE GUYS DON'T ALWAYS FINISH LAST

Veteran coach Don Cherry says Sabres' forward 'might be underestimated by some people, but not by me'

By RICK BOULTON

Reprinted from The Toronto Maple Leaf Magazine



HE has sold no frozen dinners on television, does not appear in magazine ads wearing bikini briefs, owns no hockey schools and does not relieve his aches and pains with a certain rubbing lotion. He is, however, one of the best penalty killers in the game and always ranks high in voting for the Frank J. Selke Award which went to Montreal's Bob Gainey as the league's outstanding defensive forward the last two years.

Craig Ramsay's problem is both geographical and personal: he plays in Buffalo, a good but non-glamorous hockey city which hardly qualifies as a media hotspot, and he has a genuine talent for remaining inconspicuous. Asked for some background material on Ramsay, the Buffalo public relations director replied, "There isn't much. He's a quiet guy. I don't think the newspapers did him much last year." Adds Ramsay: "Those guys are always getting my name wrong anyway. It always comes out in the papers — EY. The Buffalo media-guide misspelled my name. When the club sends tickets down to me in an envelope, my name is even misspelled there."

Two seasons ago, the Rammer, as he is known by his teammates, was awarded three trophies by the Sabre Booster Club: one for scoring over 25 goals, one for scoring a hat-trick and a silver puck award for general proficiency. On two of the trophies, his name was misspelled. "I really appreciate these trophies but you'd think somebody would get it right by now," he says smiling.

He may not have earned much newspaper space outside of Buffalo

last season but for what it's worth, Ramsay was featured in *Goal* magazine two years ago. The editors in New York even spelled his name right. But unfortunately, they ran his name under a photo of linemate Don Luce, and vice versa.

According to his teammates, he is the hardest-working and one of the most reliable of the Sabre players. He's won the Sabres' Unsung Hero Award. He has also won the Charley Barton Silver Stick Award for being the Buffalo player "who best exemplifies love of the game." He's won a Wilkinson sword award (the *Sabres*, get it?) for being the team's most improved player. In a poll conducted by the Toronto *Star*, Ramsay tied for first in voting for the league's outstanding penalty killer.

Besides finishing runner-up for the Frank J. Selke Trophy, he's also finished high in voting other seasons (though never winning) for the league's Lady Byng Trophy for gentlemanly play and the Bill Masterton Trophy (a who's who of unsung heroes). Ramsay has also recorded the rather remarkable accomplishment of going through two NHL seasons, 1971-72 and 1973-74, without receiving a single penalty. In typical unsung fashion, however, he wasn't awarded the Lady Byng Trophy on either occasion.

Though his profile is much lower than such glamorous teammates as Danny Gare, Rick Martin and Gilbert Perreault, Ramsay is one of the best all-round players in the game who has always sported one of the top plus-minus stats on the team, if not the en-

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tire league.

Whether or not Ramsay's name is ever inscribed in the NHL record book or on a league trophy, or whether it's even spelled right, is really of little concern to him. Like every NHL player, he is fiercely proud of his accomplishments, but he's such an easy-going guy — and a true team-man — that individual celebrity doesn't mean much to him.

"To be honest, I'm really not bothered by the misspellings of my name or a mix-up of photos," he says. "Mostly, it's good for a laugh. The guys kid me about it. I guess I'm an unheralded player and because I'm basically quiet and keep to myself, I'm the butt of some of their jokes. I don't mind. It's all just a part of locker room humor."

He recalls playing a game against Minnesota in his rookie season and scoring a hat-trick. "We won 3-1 and the writers here, well, they really thought they had a hot shooter. Little did they know, I was surrounded by newspaper, radio and TV people, everyone pushing aside Perreault and Martin to get at me. But I haven't scored that much since and they've pretty well left me alone."

He chuckles when reminded by a teammate that he usually manages to miss most of the preseason schedule each year but rebounds splendidly for the start of the regular season. The last two seasons, Ramsay missed nine of 10 preseason games and usually misses half or all of training camp with, kid teammates, a broken toenail, bruised elbow, Hong Kong flu or a deviated septum. "It's a standing joke," says

Sabre defenseman Bill Hajt, "how Rammer pulls off a miraculous recovery just in time to keep his streak going. He does it every year." One time his teammates sent Ramsay a telegram that said: CONGRATULATIONS ON MISSING TRAINING CAMP AND PRESEASON. GET WELL SOON. Ramsay was in uniform when the season started.

Ramsay is known around the Sabres as an organization man, in the best sense of the word. He doesn't grumble or gripe. He admires his teammates, doesn't criticize the coach, does not get down when the team hits a slump, did not bad-mouth former coach, Marcel Pronovost, or former general manager, Punch Imlach, when the two ran the Sabres or after they'd gone. He is the complete hockey player: skater, checker, scorer, penalty killer, corner man. He will give you 110 per cent.

He is doggedly uncontroversial. Hockey players today prefer to think of themselves as entrepreneurs, business executives, guitar players, restaurateurs, authors, revolutionaries, anything but hockey players. So here is Craig Ramsay answering a question about his interests outside hockey: "I like to be with my wife and two boys. During the season I just concentrate on my game and my family." He does have one hobby in the off-season: building outdoor furniture. He recently made a grandfather clock.

Does Ramsay whoop it up in those celebrated road-trip bacchanals? "I think I'm human but I'm a very poor drinker. I mostly just play cards. The road trips tire me out a lot. I feel kind of worn out at times and I'm usually

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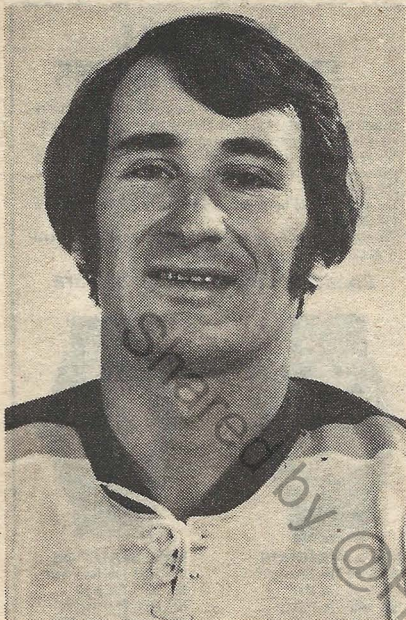
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B



Craig Ramsay

the last guy off the plane, last guy off the bus, last guy out of the dressing room. I take a ribbing for that. If any guys want to slow down, they just walk with me. I'm the original shuffle-off-to-buffalo guy. They just call me the shuffler." Says Rick Martin: "Rammer is not the fastest guy around. In fact, he's kind of weird."

The Buffalo shuffler is superstitious. Before the team's pre-game skate, he insists on being the second-last Sabre to step out on the ice. When killing penalties, he always jumps over the boards, never leaving by the door. During a regular shift, it's just the opposite. Yet he's the fastest dresser on the team and usually shows up for practice only 10 minutes before the team hits the ice.

Despite his generally quiet ways, Ramsay does have a reputation among his colleagues as something of a wag who has a very dry sense of humor.

"He'll come up with some great lines," says Sabre defenseman Jim Schoenfeld. "He is," says a Buffalo trainer, "funny as a son-of-a-gun. But very subtle."

Still, from the available evidence, such testimony may be more useful as an indictment of locker-room wit than as a tribute to a comic genius.

"Rammer always says two things in life are certain," says Bill Hajt. "It'll snow in Buffalo and if he gets a mention in the paper, his name will be spelled wrong."

"Three things in life are certain," grins forward Terry Martin. "Death, taxes, and Rammer being sick during training camp."

Ramsay was born and raised in Toronto, has two sisters and went to North Albion and Thistletown high schools. Ramsay's father is a construction manager for Bell Telephone, his mother a homemaker and artist, and they go to as many of his games as possible in Toronto and Buffalo. He was a natural all-round athlete when growing up, one of those small, talented kids who could do it all and do it easily. He played rugby, basketball, football, handball, "every sport I could think of." He excelled in golf and baseball and won a number of trophies and awards. He later went to high school in Peterborough, played with and was coached by Roger Neilson in softball and handball. "Roger was second base, I was in left field. We won a lot of championships."

Ramsay was always a defensive forward and checker during most of his minor hockey years. "I played for a coach named Bert Turney for six years of minor hockey and he taught me all the basics about positioning, defensive hockey, killing penalties, hard work. My dad also taught me a lot about the value of hard work and never letting up, not even for a second. I'm not one of those guys who can go hard one shift, ease up the next. I've got to go hard all the time or I'm out of a job. The only way I could have made it in this league is through effort." Ramsay played four seasons of junior hockey in Peterborough for Neilson, now the Sabres, associate coach. "I guess he kept me because of my defensive style. My game really developed under him. He's one of the best hockey minds in the business, stresses team play, which is my kind of game, and always gets you believing that you can beat the opposition no matter how much stronger or how much talent they might seem to have."

The Buffalo Sabres picked him in the second round of the 1971 amateur draft (19th overall), Rick Martin having been selected as their first pick, and immediately dispatched Ramsay for ripening to their American Hockey League farm club in Cincinnati. He played 19 games in Cincinnati when the call came from the Sabres, who were impressed with his defensive savvy and hustle. He's been with Buffalo ever since. Ramsay credits Joe Crozier, his coach and G.M. in Cincinnati.

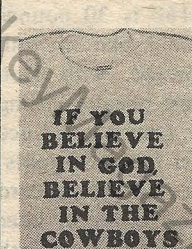
Crozier took him aside one day, gestured at his 5-foot-10, 150-pound

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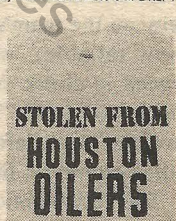
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body and said, "Craig, you're going to have to work even further on your defensive game. There are guys up there you're going to have to cover who are bigger, faster, and smarter than you, and have more skills. But you have something a lot of them won't have: tremendous desire and determination. With positional play, experience and smartness, you can be twice the player you are and stay with the top scorers."

Says Ramsay: "That's the kind of help I've had along the way. Timmy Horton was here when I first came up and he went out of his way to help me, passing along tips and so on. I figured I needed all the smartness I could get, and guys like Joe Crozier and Tim Horton supplies it."

Ramsay, who has built himself up in the off-seasons and whose current playing weight of 180 is 30 pounds more than when he broke in with Sabres, quickly formed, with Don Luce, one of the best penalty-killing twosomes in hockey. One season Luce scored eight short-handed goals, which tied Dave Keon's NHL record until Marcel Dionne broke it later with 10. Ramsay usually teams with Luce and Danny Gare, Buffalo's captain, on the team's "second line", (but most reliable), which is usually assigned to check the opposition's most dangerous line. "Whenever we get in trouble," says defenseman Schoenfeld, "they go out on the ice."

The very mention of Gil Perreault's name sells tickets, draws rave reviews and elicits cheers (or boos) in hockey arenas everywhere. Ramsay, meanwhile, must content himself with the distinction of being, as Buffalo hockey

writer Dick Johnston puts it, "the quiet, self-effacing iron man who goes largely unnoticed but who has proved that nice guys don't have to finish last." Another Buffalo writer points out that Ramsay's name is consistently at the top in the Sabres' plus-minus ratings and that his worth is equal to any of the higher-salaried stars on the team.

Though he's obviously not one of the Sabre glamor group, he has had his moments at centre stage. He scored the first playoff goal in the history of the Sabres against Montreal's Ken Dryden. He was one of Buffalo's outstanding players when the Sabres eliminated Montreal from the playoff semi-finals in 1974-75. "I guess one of my greatest memories is when we beat the Russians in Buffalo 12-6. That was good exciting hockey and, apart from beating Canadiens in the playoffs, one of my greatest thrills.

"If I've had any formula for success, it's simply playing with a great guy like Don Luce who plays a similar game to me. We understand each other. Plus-minus stats reflect the credit of a whole line, not just me, and I've been lucky that way over the years. Last year I took a little better opportunity of my offensive chances and ended up with my best scoring season. I'm still basically a defensive player. The Frank Selke Trophy for best defensive forward couldn't have come along at a better time. There are a lot of defensive forwards who should get more recognition, guys like Don Marcotte and Stan Jonathan in Boston, Doug Jarvis in Montreal, Eddie Westfall and so on."

No one sings Ramsay's praises louder than the league general managers, some of whom were widely quoted on the subject at the NHL draft meetings last June. Says former Buffalo coach Bill Inglis: "Ramsay's one heck of a team player and seldom is caught out of position. He's a good example for the younger players on this club. Sometimes, if we're concentrating too much on offense and get caught, I know who to turn to. Ramsay and Luce."

"I'll say this about Ramsay," says Colorado coach Don Cherry. "He might be underestimated by some people, but not by me, not by any other coach I've talked to, and certainly not by another hockey player. He's the kind of player every team needs to be successful."

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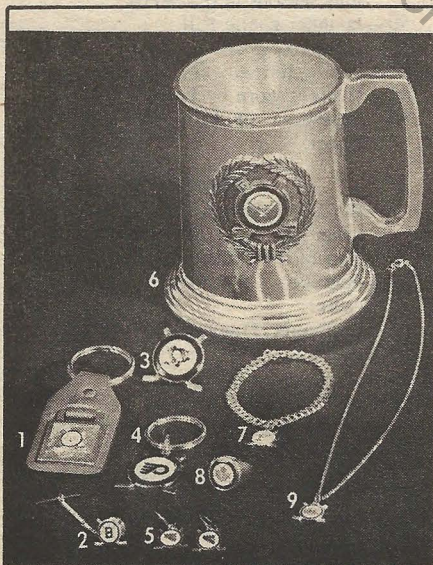
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Hockey Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1—Bernie Federko's team.
- 4—High scoring Ranger defenseman Ron.
- 8—Federko was his team's leading _____ in '78-79.
- 14—Winger Danny ranked second among Buffalo's '78-79 scorers.
- 15—Number worn by Ron Stackhouse, Dave Farrish and Keith Magnuson.
- 16—This is Islander winger Bob's eighth NHL season.
- 17—Federko was credited with 95 in '78-79.
- 18—Sims or Cameron.
- 21—Vancouver fan's favorite player.
- 23—Colorado defenseman Watson was formerly a Flyer.
- 25—Bucyk or Marks.
- 26—Right winger Don was selected by Hartford in the expansion draft.
- 27—The goalie's job is to _____ shots.
- 29—Federko's teammate Bennett plays left winger.
- 30—Lane, McRae or Smith.
- 31—Chicago right winger Cliff had 31

points in '78-79.

- 32—Maloney, Schultz or Shand.
- 34—Federko was _____ in the Western Canada Hockey League in '75-76 (abbreviation).
- 36—Souvenir of a player's operation.
- 38—Right winger Tom was Washington's fourth-leading scorer in '78-79.
- 39—Gassoff, Park or Maxwell.
- 41—Seiling or Gilbert.
- 43—Pete played goalie in seven Minnesota games last season.
- 46—John had a 3.52 goals against average for the Rangers in '78-79.
- 47—Colorado left winger Andy had 18 points last year.
- 49—Veteran Detroit center J.P. played four seasons in the WHA.
- 50—Islander goalie Bill.
- 52—Federko's position.
- 54—Boston left winger Cashman.
- 55—Number worn by Federko.
- 56—Monogram of the NHL's top '78-79 scorer.

DOWN

- 1—Bernie Federko's team plays in the Conn _____ Division.
- 2—Vancouver defenseman Goodenough.
- 3—Federko's teammate Garry plays center.
- 5—Sedlbauer, Duguay and Andruff.
- 6—North _____.
- 7—_____ minder.
- 9—Left winger Gary was one of Colorado's top five scorers in '78-79.
- 10—Palmer or Plumb.
- 11—Winger _____ Cloutier led WHA scorers last year.
- 12—Defenseman Frig was formerly with Federko's team.
- 13—One of the Espositos.
- 19—Philadelphia defenseman Andre was

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formerly with the Blues.

20—Federko spent only 14 minutes there in '78-79.

22—Atlanta right winger Houston.

24—Veteran Ranger center Walt.

28—Goalies wear them on their legs.

30—Federko had 31 in '78-79.

33—Montreal goalie Ken.

34—Gordie's son _____ Howe is a defenseman.

35—Federko scored seven _____ goals in '78-79.

37—Colorado defenseman Mike had 11 points last season.

40—Defenseman Hicks was selected by

Edmonton in the expansion draft.

41—Defenseman Pat was traded from Atlanta to Chicago last year.

42—These usually make a coach happy.

43—High-scoring Vancouver left winger Don.

44—A player for the defunct Indianapolis WHA team.

45—Mr. Apps.

46—Los Angeles left winger Grant.

48—Quebec picked goalie Ron from Detroit in the expansion draft.

51—_____ trick.

53—What the fans might yell in a power play situation.

By LARRY D. SPEARS and JACK BENDER

Solution on page 85.



Hockey Quick Quiz

Answers on page 85.

If you score 80 or better, you are a hockey expert; 70 or better, superior; between 60 and 70 good, and between 40 and 60 average.

By **BARRY WILNER**

1. Name the NHL teams the following players began their careers with: Garry Unger, Bob MacMillan, Stan Mikita, Guy Charron.

2. Name the NHL teams the following players ended their careers with: Dave Balon, Gilles Villemure,

Ron Stewart, Glen Sather.

3. Which of the following stars has not won more than one Hart Trophy as NHL most valuable player: Guy Lafleur, Bobby Clarke, Phil Esposito, Bryan Trottier.

4. How many present NHL coaches are in charge of a team they played for? Name them.

5. Which NHL team employed the most goaltenders in 1978-79. How many?

6. True or False. Guy Lafleur, who was third in the scoring race with 129 points last season, has never finished worse than third in total points for a season during his career.

7. All but one of the following players appeared in every one of his teams 80 games in 1978-79. Which one did not? John Marks, Chicago; Jean Pronovost, Atlanta; Terry O'Reilly, Boston; Syl Apps, Los Angeles.

8. Are there any NHL teams, including the four newest members from the WHA, who haven't made the playoffs in their history?

9. Name the NHL's most valuable performer in the Challenge Cup series last February against the Soviet Union.

10. True or False. Bernie Geoffrion, the new coach of the Canadiens, once before was head coach for Montreal.

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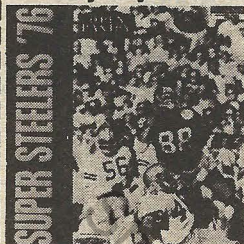
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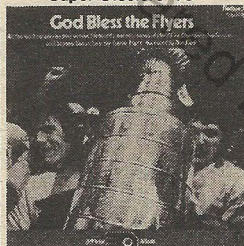
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JACQUES PLANTE: THE ALMOST-PERFECT GOALKEEPER

Technically, he was a master at his trade, his mind a computer bank of opposition plays and shooting traits

By **RICK BOULTON**

Reprinted from The Toronto Maple Leaf Magazine

JACQUES PLANTE was hockey's great innovator. He was an honors student of the game, had a brilliant grasp of its dynamics and revolutionized two aspects of goalkeeping: he pioneered the use of the face mask and popularized leaving the net to play stray pucks (when attacking teams fired the puck around the end boards, Plante whirled to intercept it behind his net; today, of course, the play has become standard goal-keeping procedure). In his 24 years as a pro (he retired for good in 1975) Plante became an authority on the habits and traits of opposing forwards. Between games he brooded over his game, fretted about how to polish and improve it. In many aspects of hockey he was ahead of his time.

In the early 1960s, for instance, Plante said that hockey players were undercoached. He wasn't referring to the kids in the peewees — he meant the pros. He asked how one man could know all there is to know about offense, defense, backchecking, passing, playing left wing, playing right defense, playing goal. He advocated a specialist goalkeeping coach and said

that NHL coaches should appoint assistants, as they do in baseball and football, to specialize in specific skills. That, of course, is becoming the trend today.

Like any pioneer, Plante endured the criticism that he was unorthodox without cause. He was the first goalie to develop hand signals to warn defensemen about an impending icing call. Because he developed a free-wheeling and now widely-copied style of net-minding in which he not only ventured behind his goal but as far out as his own blue line, it was said by some that he played to the crowd. Even today, you can still find people who remember him as a showboat for flashing his hands over his head in an extravagant victory sign the moment the game ended. But by and large the fans loved him — and he usually had the last laugh. After playing in a game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Plante said the nets weren't the right size. People laughed. Then officials measured the nets and found that he was right.

He always complained about his asthma, a chronic ailment that led him

to switch from defense to goaltending when he was six years old and playing hockey in Shawinigan, Que. His reaction to Toronto was so severe that he could cope only by flying in just before the game and flying out right after it. No one, then, was more startled than Plante when he was traded to Toronto for the 1970-71 season. Reminded that Plante found Toronto's lakeside climate bothersome, Leaf general manager Jim Gregory took the precaution of installing him in an apartment in the city's less-polluted north end (Willowdale). In his days with Montreal, he was allowed to stay at the

Westbury Hotel, next door to the Gardens, because he swore he was allergic to the Royal York Hotel, where the rest of the Canadiens stayed.

Plante was different. He used to knit to relieve tension, he was an avid reader of historical biographies (Lenin, Stalin, Churchill), a competent landscape painter in oils and so dedicated a cook that he never set foot in a Toronto restaurant while he was a Maple Leaf. He didn't smoke or drink. On the road he roomed alone. In ten years with the Montreal Canadiens, on uncountable trips to New York, he never once toured the town. If age slowed his reflexes in the last few years of his career (he played until he was 46) his experience more than compensated for it. He was very shrewd. For example, he worked out a deal with the Leafs so that while he played for the team — 1970-71 to 1973 — he didn't receive a cent in salary; the Leafs are to pay him his salary beginning in 1981.

If Plante does not rank as the number one goalkeeper of all time, it is only because statistics aren't everything. No one had better statistics. His lifetime goals-against average was 2.37 in 837 regular-season NHL games. The Canadiens' Bill Durnan, who retired in 1950, compiled a lifetime goals-against average of 2.35, but he played only a little more than seven NHL seasons. Plante had 82 regular-season shutouts, a number surpassed by Terry Sawchuk's 103 and Glenn Hall's 84, but he still holds the record, 14, for most shutouts in the Stanley Cup playoffs. He won the Vezina Trophy a record seven times, five consec-

Plante as a Maple Leaf goalie



utive years with Montreal beginning in 1956. In 1962, as well as winning the Vezina, his sixth, he won the Hart Trophy as the league's most valuable player — the last goalkeeper to do so. In 1969, playing with St. Louis Blues, he shared a Vezina (his seventh) with Glenn Hall. He was named to the league's first all-star team four times and the second team four times. He was on six Stanley Cup winning teams, all of them in Montreal.

Plante's 10 years with the Canadiens did not end happily. Although he played brilliantly, his Montreal bosses never became accustomed to his eccentricities. His habit of wandering away from the net gave coach Toe Blake ulcers, and many fans happily anticipated the day when Plante would get caught out of position by an opposing forward (in fact, according to Andy O'Brien's lively book, *The Jacques Plante Story*, Plante was only caught outside his crease six times in his pro career). As strange as it seems, Plante says today that he could never be sure of his job in Montreal; among other things there was some adverse reaction to his introduction of the mask in 1959. His nose had been broken by a shot and cut for seven stitches. Blake had previously opposed his requests that he be allowed to wear his practice mask in the games, but with his nose broken he reached for his mask and walked past Blake wearing it. Blake did not object, and when the Canadiens won the game — they were playing the Rangers in New York — he let the incident pass. Plante had made goaltending history.

Plante infuriated Blake in other

ways, too. One memorable night he declined to take part in the pregame warmup on grounds of asthma. Blake was furious. "How can you run a team if you're never sure your goalie is going to play?" he asked. Years later, Plante's often-noisy ideas on the subject of the two-goalie system helped introduce that concept to the point where it is standard procedure today. Once again, he was ahead of his time.

Plante's unpredictable health bothered Montreal management. Privately, they called him a hypochondriac and noted that he didn't suffer from asthma from the time he was 14 until he joined the Canadiens at age 24. Even when he suffered injuries that were visible on X-rays, Blake was suspicious.

At the end of the 1963 season the Canadiens traded Plante to the New York Rangers. In New York, he developed knee trouble, made mistakes in goal, and his goals-against average climbed. Ranger management began talking about his "phantom knee". Finally, coach Red Sullivan exploded, and Plante found himself playing with Baltimore of the American Hockey League. Eventually he had knee surgery, proving that the Rangers had been wrong in believing that the pain in his knee was in fact a pain in his head. But he quit hockey in 1965, a retirement that would last three years. One of his most distinguished achievements — and happiest memories — occurred during those years when he went into goal, cold, to play for the Junior Canadiens against the touring Russian national team, beating them 2-1 in Montreal.

When he came out of retirement in

1968, Plante was 39 years old. Playing for St. Louis he reconfirmed his belief in himself, the money was good and, combining with Glenn Hall, he played well. From St. Louis he came to the Leafs, where he tutored Bernie Parent. In 1973 the Leafs traded him to Boston. He helped the Bruins finish the season, winning seven of eight games and taking over third place from the Rangers, but he was a flop in the playoffs. He admitted his nerves were gone. Soon after he announced he was heading for the World Hockey Association, where he managed, coached and played until his retirement in 1975.

Typically, his last days in the NHL were shrouded in controversy: the Bruins somehow failed to send him his share of the playoff money, and he had to ask NHL president Clarence Campbell to collect. He never did get his equipment back from the Bruins, who claimed it was lost. Plante believed the Bruins were mad at him for jumping to the WHA with a year left on his contract. Playing in the WHA, he developed stomach pains that team doctors could never diagnose.

But the most interesting thing about Plante were not his pains but his ideas. For instance, he said that players should talk on the ice — he said he wanted to be told if an opposing player was behind the net — and he himself talked all the time, shouting instructions to his defensemen or warning them when an opposing checker was coming at them from the blind side. If a teammate had the puck behind his net, Plante often indicated to which side he should pass the puck to ensure

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Jacques Plante

that it would clear the zone. And as for his roaming tactics, he admitted he sometimes made mistakes, either by anticipating incorrectly the flow of the play or by getting in the way of his defensemen, but he did not leave the goal until he was sure he could get back. He could afford to wander because he was a superior skater.

Indeed, Plante was technically almost a perfect goalkeeper, a stand-up goalie as opposed to a flopper. He had a mathematician's grasp of angles. He knew, in relation to his position between the goalposts, exactly where he was at all times. His mind was a computer bank of opposition plays and shooting characteristics. He was almost impossible to fool. When his playing days were over he admitted that he even studied which players

used black tape on their sticks and which used white; the puck was easier to see if the player had white tape on his stick, he said.

Plante was dedicated in practice, went to bed faithfully at 9:30 p.m., covered 30 miles a day on the stationary bicycle, watched his weight, what he ate, the temperature of the fruit juices he drank. He was especially careful of how and when he used his eyes. A goal-tender's biggest problems, he used to explain, are his eyes and his nerves. To relax he'd read, cook lasagna, knit undershirts, play bridge. He'd leave a stack of records playing while he slept, placing the loudest, liveliest records at the top of the stack so he'd wake up progressively.

As a Maple Leaf, Plante spent most of his spare time answering mail. According to Leaf publicist Stan Obodias, he received more mail than any player in the team's history, averaging 200 letters a day. Partly, it was a reflection of his personal popularity, and partly it was the result of a television appearance he once made on *Hockey Night in Canada* in which he mentioned he had prepared a tip sheet for young goal-tenders. It contained 15 pointers, such as, "On a breakaway do not rush toward your opponent. Wait for him at the edge of your goal crease." Or, "Sur un echappe, ne fonce pas vers ton adversaire . . ." Plante's tip-sheets, mimeographed at the Gardens on Gardens' stationery, often included personal notes to the boys (and sometimes girls) who had special questions. He answered every fan letter. ■

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DETROIT'S OLYMPIA, SITE OF MANY GREAT HOCKEY MEMORIES

By **TOM HENDERSON**
The Detroit Free Press

*In the late 1940s
and early 1950s,
Red Wings won
seven straight
NHL championships*

"It would not matter where the city builds its new stadium. No location could be better than the one we have now." — Olympia general manager Lincoln Cavalieri, in 1970, defending his building's location on Grand River.

"This is a tremendous building . . . if an atom bomb landed, I'd want to be in Olympia." — Cavalieri, in 1979, describing the structural soundness of the old red barn.

THE wheelers and dealers created Olympia, and now they likely are going to destroy it. At the very least, this season will mark its end as home of the Red Wings.

Soon the Wings, as well as the rock concerts, rodeos, Ice Capades, boxing matches and revivals that have made such a money-maker out of Olympia, will move to the Joe Louis Arena on the riverfront.

The move has nothing to do with the neighborhood around Olympia, and it certainly has nothing to do with the crowds, because fans have broken all sorts of attendance records there recently. It has to do with power and money; as Olympia was born, so shall it die.

Just as the Joe Louis Arena grew out of a power struggle between those who wanted a new arena in Pontiac and those who wanted one on the river, Olympia grew, in the mid-20s, out of a struggle between rival groups.

Both battles were won by the fittest.

In 1926, plans were announced to build an arena across from the old Ford plant in Highland Park. The heavyweights at the Detroit Athletic Club opposed that arena and set about

to build their own. It was no contest. A year later, Olympia had already been built and opened, thanks to the financing of such notable names as Fisher, Townsend, Buhl, Kern, Ford (Henry and Edsel) and Butzel.

Only after they had the rink under construction did the movers and shakers go about getting a team to play in it, purchasing the Victoria (B.C.) Cougars and moving them to Detroit. They played the 1926-27 season in Windsor and moved to Olympia after it opened Oct. 15, 1927.

Hockey has been a mainstay since, but it was boxing that really made the place famous.

The first event at Olympia was a rodeo, but a fight 11 days after it opened brought in the first huge crowd. Heavyweights Tom Heeney and Johnny Risko fought before a crowd announced at 16,000, but according to newspaper accounts, there were far more in the building. They were hanging from the rafters, and that's when the term wasn't a cliché; many fans actually wormed their way out onto the rafters and thousands of others jostled for prime standing-room spots.

But a depression was on the way, and Olympia soon went bankrupt. James Norris bought the place for \$5 million in 1933, renamed the Cougars the Red Wings, and things have been rolling for the Norrisses and Olympia ever since.

In 1934, Joe Louis, a promising amateur, made his debut there, and nearly got whipped in the Golden Gloves by a kid named Stanley Evans. Louis knocked him down in the first

round, then got pummeled the rest of the way en route to a win that was booed by the fans.

Boxing hit its prime there in the early '40s, with some classic bouts, including two historic matches between Jake LaMotta and Sugar Ray Robinson. It was early in 1943 and Robinson was the classiest fighter in the world, having run up 129 wins without defeat. Before a frenzied crowd of 18,930, LaMotta pulled off a stunning upset, barely missing out on a knockout when the bell rang at the count of nine to save Robinson at the end of round eight.

Three weeks later, LaMotta and Robinson went at it again in Olympia, with Robinson winning a 10-round decision.

Other famous fighters to appear there included Jersey Joe Walcott, Ezzard Charles, Kid Gavilan and, of course, Thomas Hearns.

Fights and hockey weren't the only things to draw huge throngs of Detroiters to Grand River. In 1944, 19,500 showed up to hear vice-president Henry Wallace tell them that the Republican nominee for president, Thomas Dewey, had "a sterile mind (and his) campaign is conceived, concocted and speech-written by expert manipulators."

Hockey hit its heyday in the late '40s and early '50s. Led first by Sid Abel and then Ted Lindsay and Gordie Howe, the Wings won seven straight league championships and eight in nine years, and they won four Stanley Cups.

It hit its nadir in the '70s, when under first Ned Harkness and then

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Alex Delvecchio the club dropped to the bottom of the NHL. Even then, except for only two seasons, the fans supported the team and the building.

Last season, with the team way under .500 and out of the playoffs all season, the team set a new single-season attendance record.

The building is structurally fine — built in tiers, it allows most fans a beautiful view of the game, a view that won't be matched in the Louis Arena — and the fans are supportive, so why move on?

Money talks. In this case, it roared.

Two years ago suburban developers made an offer Norris and Cavalieri couldn't refuse. They wanted the Wings to move to Pontiac, next to the Silverdome, and offered them a package worth nearly \$3 million a year in profits in addition to paying for construction of the building.

A year ago, the City of Detroit (read that Mayor Young) came up with another offer the Wings couldn't refuse. They were offered control of Cobo Arena, Louis Arena and two parking structures, all at one-third the rent they would have paid in Pontiac. As quickly as you can tear up a contract, or hop through a loophole, the Wings bid adeau to Pontiac.

Despite the money, and despite the pretty, new arena, everyone associated with the Wings admits Olympia will be a hard place to leave. And they admit that Olympia's atmosphere will not be duplicated in the Louis Arena.

"We don't want to leave this building," said Cavalieri. "I've been here for 20 years. This is a tremendous

building . . . You don't get the charm and the character in a new building that you have here. And the sight lines are the best in the league. We're going to cry our eyes out."

Said Art Whelan, Cavalieri's assistant: "I've had architectural students come in, look at the trusses in the ceiling [at Olympia] and say, 'Wow, we've seen stuff like them in textbooks.' "

"It's poured concrete," said Cavalieri of Olympia's construction. "It's not cinder block or any of that."

Yet, Olympia will likely be leveled by the wreckers in the near future. The Wings' contract with Detroit prevents them from operating Olympia in competition with the downtown arenas, or even selling it to someone who will use it in competition. That leaves either

giving it away to Wayne State or the University of Detroit — neither of which likely would be able to afford its upkeep — or wrecking it. Each would make a nifty tax deduction.

"It's a single-purpose building," said Cavalieri. "As long as it can't be used in competition, it is going to be very difficult to sell it. We'll probably strip it, knock it down and put up houses or something."

They shoot horses, but only when they have to. Somehow it seems obscene to raze a building that everyone admits is in great shape, that everyone admits is a super place to watch hockey. But there's money to be made and so it will be made, and if that means higher prices for worse seats in a structurally inferior building, so be it. ■

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D

HOCKEY AS IT'S PLAYED ON THE COLLEGE LEVEL

*Without a red line, the game features many breakaways,
goals come in flurries and no mugging is permitted*

By **SKIP MYSLENSKI**
The Chicago Tribune

THEY are known in Madison, Wisconsin, where they have sold out 20 consecutive games, where few of their fans have tickets to both nights of a weekend series, and where they have caused such chaos that the upper deck of their arena once visibly shook. They are known, too, in Grand Forks, North Dakota, where students will throw dead animals and where news about them will appear on the front page of the paper. They are known throughout the state of Minnesota, where many of them come from. And they are known even at Notre Dame, where the world's most famous fight song swirls about them on cold, winter nights.

They have pom-pon girls, cheerleaders, mascots, fan clubs, pep bands, intrastate rivalries, interstate rivalries, The Toconite Trophy, and gaggles of aficionados who will follow them on the road ("The Booze 'N' Blade Road Gang," the folks from Madison call themselves). They have a national championship, which will be played in a major league arena and will be televised by public broadcast-

ing on stations from Alaska to Rhode Island, and they recently have filled the Boston Garden beyond capacity — a feat rarely achieved by their professional counterparts, the lordly Bruins.

They play a purer game than those counterparts, provide more entertainment, offer more innovations, and have produced a supply of illustrious names. Tony Esposito is one of them, and so are Ken Dryden, Glenn Resch, Peter McNab, Mike Milbury, Cliff Koroll, Keith Magnuson, John Marks, Paul Holmgren, Tom Gorence, Wayne Thomas, and Ron Grahame. Eight of them played for the Cincinnati Stingers before they folded, seven for the Minnesota North Stars, four for the Bruins and the Black Hawks, three for the Canadiens and the Kings. Yet none has ever been drafted in the first round, and many have been faced with prejudice.

They are still rarities, oddities, curiosity pieces, and undiscovered treats, and so in the end they are regarded with ignorance if they are regarded at all. "The media in general is

apathetic toward us," says Dan Farrell, who coaches hockey at the University of Michigan.

"The people in large cities have some kind of mystique about college hockey," adds Lefty Smith, who coaches the sport at the University of Notre Dame. "They don't know what it's really like. They don't know what to make of us."

"We play in front of a half-million people each year, yet there are an awful lot who don't know about us," concludes Bob Johnson, who coaches at the University of Wisconsin. "I get letters from all kinds of people thinking they can just walk in here and play for us. 'Do you have a varsity team?' they ask. They just don't know how good is good. They don't know about us."

The game

They remain unknown, for only 34 schools play hockey on a Division I level, and they are all concentrated in fairly defined pockets. They congregate in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (with teams in Michigan, Minnesota, Colorado, and at North Dakota, Notre Dame, and Wisconsin), in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association (primarily northern Michigan and Ohio), and in the Eastern Collegiate Hockey Association (primarily the New England states), and they must be content to flourish only in those communities that they represent.

Yet there they prompt a mania that as true as any other, and college hockey, like all college sports, provides a spectacle and an excitement that cannot be matched by the profes-

sionals. There is no red line in their game, so longer passes are possible, breakaways are not unusual, and goals appear in flurries; and there is no mugging permitted, so interminable delays of pushing and shoving and dancing around the ice do not intrude (a player ejected for fighting is automatically suspended for at least one game and perhaps more, depending on his past record).

The players benefit from the antics of their audience, and on this night in South Bend a pickup pep band is parked in the corner of the arena, its members dressed in shorts and Hawaiian shirts, its background a pair of cut-out palm trees pasted to the stands. A 65-piece band shows up for every Wisconsin home game, and its members are joined by Bucky Badger and 8,862 idolators fortunate enough to attend one of that city's prime social events. The game is regarded similarly at Minnesota-Duluth and at the University of Minnesota itself, and in Grand Forks, North Dakota, it is (naturally) the one and only thing to do.

When Minnesota plays in Grand Forks the players may be pelted by dead gophers (though Wisconsin and Michigan have escaped this treatment, for not many are brave enough to kill badgers and wolverines). All visitors however, must face the curse of Kermit the Frog, the mascot adopted by a group of North Dakota fans called The Farce. "Were not impressive enough to be called The Force," explained one member. "So we're called The Farce."

They were out in force when Michigan recently appeared there, their

heads covered by yellow helmets decorated with flashing red lights, and Kermit, a stuffed toy, was propped on the boards in front of them. "They're crazy, man," Michigan defenseman John Blum says. "They're nuts."

He had already knocked Kermit from its perch with his stick and now, with warmups near conclusion, he was standing by his team's bench. "Steal that damn frog," the team manager said to him.

"Man, I can't do that," Blum answered.

"Ah, go get it," the manager cajoled.

Finally Blum did, and he dropped it to the ice, pummeled it with his blade, retrieved it, and took it to the locker room, where it was renovated. It appeared next dangling from the end of the reserve goalie's stick, and its mouth was taped, its arms were tied, and across its chest were the words: "Go Blue."

"We want Kermit," the crowd was chanting. "We want Kermit."

Blum listened, then held up a legal pad. "Ransom: One Win." was written across it.

Three days later the Grand Forks Herald recounted the episode in depth. "Kermit Nabbed In Hockey Crime Wave" was bannered across the top of Page 1.

The player

In the past, the NHL aspirant had no choice, so he would forget about school (often dropping out before graduating from high school), sign with a junior club, leave his family, and spend the formative years of his life bounding from one small Canadian town to another. It was the pat-

tern, the tradition, the accepted way, and the alternate route college offered was not certifiably viable until this decade was three years old.

Yet even now this newer road is viewed with equivocation, and even now a promising youngster will feel the force of peer pressure. "The Junior A league is the way to the pros," he will hear.

"Why waste your time in college?" he'll be asked.

"You'll never make it that way," he'll be advised.

"It makes it a lot tougher to get players," says Michigan's Farrell.

"But the people who say you can't make it our way are lying," adds Wisconsin's Johnson. "We recognize their outlet. I'm not sure they recognize ours."

"But kids are starting to recognize they don't have to go the pro route," concludes Notre Dame's Smith. "Because of this, we're getting a much better caliber player now."

The coach

During a recent summer, Dan Farrell attended a hockey clinic, and there he listened attentively as Buffalo's Roger Nielson showed films of center-ice play and lectured on the prowess of the Montreal Canadiens. When it ended, Farrell was pleased, for he had learned something new, but an NHL coach nearby reacted only with dismay. "That damn Nielson," the coach said. "He's nuts. He's going to force us to work hard at this game. Someone's going to have to tell him not to work so hard."

"That put it in a nutshell for me," Farrell says now. "Nielson works 18,

20 hours a day on hockey, and he's the exception. I think the other coach typifies most professional hockey people."

"Our job is more ideal than theirs," continues Wisconsin's Johnson. "I really think college coaching and college hockey is the ideal situation for teaching and learning. You practice twice as much as you play. There're no long road trips. The facilities are ideal. Anytime you want to change, it takes time, patience, teaching, and how open are pro players to change? The guy's been doing it traditionally for 10 years. You walk in with new ideas, how's he going to react?"

"Maybe the Russian series did some good," concludes Notre Dame's Smith. "The thing that beat us wasn't fancy plays, wasn't spectacular strategy. It was their ability to do the basics. Maybe now we'll go back to teaching the fundamentals."


This is the anthem of college coaches, who have eschewed the easy way of the pros (dump it, chase it, and bang in the corners) and have continued to teach and to search for better ways. They have studied the Swedes and the Soviets and the Czechs with open minds, and they have adopted ideas that are still anathema to the pros. "I really think," says Farrell, "that we look at the game more intelligently."

"College coaches do a lot of things that are not considered traditional. We've gotten away from the NHL-style game; a lot of college coaches are very innovative, and we've taken what we've seen in Europe and applied it to our programs. Most of us are edu-

cators, trained educators, and are more open to change, more willing to try things because of our educational experience. A lot of coaches on the pro level are former players, there's not much imagination there. So you have different styles at different schools, and though we're not as skilled as the pros, we have a more exciting game."

The prejudice

They enter the NHL as the new breed, with backgrounds so different from many around them, and there is



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often a subtle pressure to conform to the accepted norm. "That's booze and broads," says a college coach. There is, too, an envy in some of those without their past, and as the college graduate endures minor league life, he will be offered whispers of advice. "Forget this," he'll be told. "Ya don't need it."

"Well, take a kid who just graduated from Notre Dame," says Lefty Smith when asked about this. "He can sign a minor-major contract, which is usually \$12,000 to \$25,000. At the same time he's also offered a job by Continental Bank or Procter-Gamble for \$17,000, \$18,000. He's going to see that \$5,000 difference and say, 'Hey, baby, I'm going with my future.' There's also a change of lifestyle for him; he's going from being busy all the time to being busy maybe two hours a day. Sometimes that's a negative for him. As a result of this, I don't think college players always give pro hockey the shot they should."

"But if a college kid is given the same shot as a Junior A kid, he's going to be just as successful," says Bob Johnson. "But I think there's a prejudice, yes, I think he's labeled a college kid and he's supposed to be different. They think he's not tough enough, he wears a helmet. Colleges don't allow you to fight like they do in the juniors. I don't see that's much difference, but people try to make you different."

"I think our image is getting better, but the guy who played junior hockey becomes a scout, he has his affiliation, he's never accepted the college game and probably never will accept it. Say a team like Chicago drafts a kid one or two, they'll bring him in and play him

every night until he gets good. But they'll bring a college kid in, give him a couple of shifts, then it's 'Oops, he's not ready yet' and they ship him to Dallas, where he stays for a couple of years and then drops out of the game."

"What I'm saying is that some people haven't studied college hockey."

The future

Lefty Smith put down the phone, resettles himself on the couch and lights another Winston. He is talking now of money, and he notes the exorbitant cost of equipment, the exorbitant cost of ice time, the exorbitant amounts suddenly being expended in search of secrets that don't exist. "If it'd been this expensive when I was growing up," he says, "I could never have afforded to play. There's a lot my age like me, too. It is a problem. We're turning hockey into a bourgeois sport."

This problem exists not only at the younger levels, but in colleges as well, and hockey, like all sports besides football and basketball, is suddenly finding itself in a financial squeeze. "We're on thin ice," Smith says, not noting the pun. He is here too concerned for humor, and he talks instead of the influence of Title IX, of the growth in women's athletics, of the alterations necessitated by the sudden influx of their new programs.

He moves then to a solution, a unique outline he had preounded a day earlier during a two-hour visit with a representative from the office of NHL President John Ziegler. "I'd like to see a senior draft instead of an age draft," Lefty Smith is now saying. "I'd like to see developmental money coming into the colleges. They're get-

ting a farm system here for zero, I'd hope to bridge that. It kicks money back into the amateur leagues as kids progress, but college hockey is not getting any money at all. And I'd like to see us become much closer in all forms of hockey."

Here Lefty Smith pauses and fires up another cigaret. "Let's sell it as a sport," he then goes on. "Let's get rid of this goon business. Let's get rid of the bloodshed. I still think hockey is the most entertaining sport there is with its finesse, fluidity of movement. But because it's a business, for money or some reason, they want to sell hockey as a spectacle. This turns off the true hockey fan."

"But they could give a damn about college hockey right now. The NHL has regional telecasts, right, so I ask them why, in between periods, they can't interview college coaches and show some clips of our games. We're not detracting from their game, we're building the sport."

"When they had six teams, they didn't have to sell. They were like Notre Dame football. You don't have to sell football here, but if for some reason we suddenly did, it would take a few years to adjust. Hockey's like that now, we're having to promote the sport, and I just hope it's not too late for us to adjust."

Again Lefty Smith pauses, and then he rises and walks toward his desk. "But it's like if you're a horse's ass," he finally says with a grin. "You're the last one who wants to know about it. When you shave in the morning, you don't look in the mirror. Well, that's something we've got to do now." ■

Hockey Digest

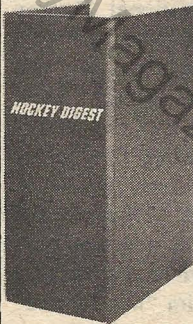
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GLENN HALL: HE WAS AN UNLIKELY 'IRONMAN' GOALIE

Before each outing, he suffered from a nervous stomach, but he still played in 502 straight regular season games

By RICK BOULTON

Reprinted from The Toronto Maple Leaf Magazine

GLENN HALL will always be remembered as the hockey goalie who became violently ill before games. It was his way of battling nervous tension, but the pressure never affected his performance. Hall played 16 seasons in the National Hockey League, three with Detroit, 10 with Chicago, three with St. Louis, and was often considered the game's finest goalie. He won several of the NHL's major trophies, including the Calder as best rookie, the Conn Smythe as most valuable playoff performer and the Vezina for lowest goals-against-average, which he won or shared three times. They called him "Mr. Goalie" throughout his career and he was voted to the First All-Star team seven times, the Second Team four times. Hall's 84 regular-season shutouts, two more than Jacques Plante, were surpassed only by Terry Sawchuk's 103. Hall's lifetime goals-against-average was 2.51.

Until his last couple of years in St. Louis, Hall refused to wear a face mask. Today, his 47-year-old face — he retired in 1970 — is an open book detailing a hockey career that will be there to read for the rest of his life. Eight levels of worry lines are engraved on his brow. Around the mouth, scar tissue from 75 stitches. Elsewhere on his face, another 150. He never stopped worrying about his face. "I took it with a grain of salt when some guys said they'd be willing to use their head to stop the puck," he says today. "I got my head the hell out of the way. It didn't matter that the puck went in the net."

Hall was usually described as having a hate affair with hockey. In his final half-dozen years with Chicago Black Hawks and St. Louis Blues, he kept threatening to quit. His wife usually convinced him to go back for the money; he'd bought a 475-acre spread near Edmonton, and needed the money



Hall played in 906 NHL games plus 13 All-Star encounters

from hockey to get the farm operation really going. "I was miserable the last few years," he says. "I didn't particularly like the game. I had to force myself to play. I earned every cent I ever made in hockey. I'd get shots every game that hurt right through the pads. And they'd hurt for days afterwards."

He established an iron-man record for goalkeepers which, now that teams enjoy two goalies, will probably never be beaten: 502 consecutive regular-season games, played over seven seasons. Including playoff games, the streak was 551. Hall appeared in 906 league games in all. He holds the Stanley Cup playoff record for most

games by a goalie, 113, and most minutes played by a goalie in a career, 6,899. He stands as the most durable goalkeeper of all time, as well as one of the best. He played in 13 All-Star games for an 0.81 goals-against-average and averaged 2.79 in 15 playoff years.

Being a great goalkeeper, Hall wasn't used to giving anything away — not even his emotions. Wary with reporters, he didn't like talking about his nervous problem. Out on the ice, he appeared to be a stoneface — his facial expression was unchanged whether he'd blown a soft shot or made a spectacular save. But most fans were aware of his habit of heaving



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up and generally being miserable the day of a game. He was sometimes sick between periods. He kept a jug of tea, heavily laced with sugar, in his locker and drank it as a sedative before games. Battling his nerves was an endless and difficult fight.

"Goalkeeping is a constant strain," he used to say, yet Hall was dedicated to his job. He quit smoking because he felt it was injuring his health. He watched what he ate and was especially careful of how and when he used his eyes. He refused to read books because he felt they put undue strain on his eyes. He wouldn't read newspapers because he couldn't stomach sportswriters' comments on a game "they know little or nothing about".

Yet, in defiance of a Black Hawks club rule, he attended movies on the day of a game, believing the relaxation benefits outweighed the strain on his eyes. He was a loner and didn't mix with teammates. He preferred to keep to his hotel room rather than sit around hotel lobbies or tour the town. He suffered stomach ailments which sometimes reduced him to a state bordering on nervous collapse before game time.

Asked today about his upset stomach, he says, "Yeah, I guess it really was a waste to eat the day of a game. I could never hold it down."

Was he really miserable playing hockey?

"You better believe it," Hall recalls. "Those last few years, all I could think about was the farm. It would keep me going. That, plus you knew that there'd be an end to hockey someday. It wasn't just the big cities

and the travel. It was the hockey. As I got older, it got more difficult to play well and the nerves got worse." Hall began farming seriously in 1971, immediately upon his retirement. He's still at it today, raising four children and 75 head of cattle.

Hall said he sold his soul to the St. Louis Blues and Chicago Black Hawks. He wouldn't have carried on through his last years in the NHL if he hadn't needed the money. His barn became fabled as the place where sportswriters would have to phone to discover if he was coming back every fall. "That's why he never made it to training camp," recalls Lefty Reid, curator of the Hockey Hall of Fame. Every Fall he always told management he had to paint the barn — mainly because he hated training camp. That was Glenn Hall — always holding out until the last minute.

The memory of Hall crouched coilspring-tight in front of the net is one which hockey fans won't soon forget. Hall was acrobatic, a flopper at times, and endured the criticism that his style was unorthodox. In blocking shots, Hall spent as much time on his knees as he did on his feet. When Hall went down, his legs fanned out in a wide "V" formation and reached almost to the goalpost. While his legs generally protected shots skimming along the ice, his left hand was always ready to catch rising shots. Digging the toes of his skates into the ice, he was always able to bounce quickly out of the crouch position into a stand-up to stop high shots — a technique hockey analysts felt was the best they'd ever seen for screened shots. He always

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seemed to know exactly where he was at all times. His style seemed to allow him to cover more of the net than most other goalkeepers.

Born in Humboldt, Sask., Hall was spotted by Fred Pinkney, a Detroit scout, while he was playing for Humboldt Juniors. He played junior for the Windsor Spitfires, Detroit's farm club, and in his last season won the Ontario Hockey Association's most valuable player award. (Hall recalls today that he'd even got sick before some games back in Humboldt and Windsor.) He moved on to Indianapolis in the American Hockey League and then to Edmonton in the Western League. Hall filled in for Terry Sawchuk, who was out with injuries, for a few games in the 1954-55 season and played well. "He's more advanced at this stage than Sawchuk was," said G. M. Jack Adams, explaining why he traded the veteran Sawchuk to Boston to make a place for Hall.

It was a short-lived love affair; two years later Hall was traded to Chicago and Sawchuk returned to Detroit.

The Red Wings unloaded him after being eliminated in the first round of the 1957-58 playoffs, saying Hall hadn't performed as well in the playoffs as expected. With Chicago, too, Hall was sometimes blamed — in hockey, a goalie is almost the most convenient scapegoat — for the Black Hawks' customary playoff collapse. Yet, with Chicago, Hall proved he was one of the game's greats, making the First All-Star team five times in 10 years and leading the Hawks to the Stanley Cup in 1961 — Chicago's only Cup win in the past 40 years.

Hall was the first player selected by the St. Louis Blues in the NHL's original expansion draft and posted successive goals-against-averages of 2.50, 2.31 and 3.00. Though describing himself today as "just a moonlighting farmer in St. Louis", he had 14 shutouts over three seasons and helped lead Blues to Stanley Cup finals in each of them. In his first season with St. Louis he won the Conn Smythe Trophy as most valuable playoff performer. He played some of his best hockey for the Blues, the money was good and, combining with Jacques Plante, he won the Vezina trophy in 1968-69.

Hall was elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1975. He was often compared to Plante, who was also elected to the Hall, and Terry Sawchuk (elected in 1971) especially when the subject of who should be ranked as the No. 1 goalkeeper of all time arises. Hall maintains today: "Jacques was a completely different type from me. He could go to the rink and enjoy the game. He liked the challenge. Even today, he goes to the games, talks to people, discusses plays, has a laugh. When I went to the arena, tension started mounting. I still can't go to games today, even to watch."

He doesn't watch televised games either. He hasn't been sick to his stomach in years but gets a little queasy when asked about the state of hockey today. "There are too many fights, too many high-sticks, elbows and knees," he says. Discussing hockey, he becomes moody and irritable. "There are more dogs on the ice than in the pound." ■

Answers to Hockey Quick Quiz

1. Unger (Toronto Maple Leafs); MacMillan (New York Rangers); Mikita (Chicago Black Hawks); Charron (Montreal Canadiens).

2. Balon (Vancouver Canucks); Villemure (Chicago Black Hawks); Stewart (New York Islanders); Sather (Minnesota North Stars).

3. Trottier, who won his first in 1978-79. Lafleur won it in 1976-77 and 1977-78; Clarke in 1972-73, 1974-75 and 1975-76 and Esposito won it in 1968-69 and 1973-74.

4. Seven. They are Pat Quinn of Philadelphia, Fred Shero of the Rangers, Bob Berry of Los Angeles, Floyd Smith of Toronto, Bernie Geoffrion of Montreal, Glen Sather of Edmonton and Don Blackburn of New England.

5. Philadelphia. They were Bernie Parent, Pete Peeters, Wayne Stephenson, Robbie Moore and Rick St. Croix.

6. False. In his first three seasons with Montreal, Lafleur's name couldn't be found anywhere among the scoring leaders. He registered 64, 55 and 56 points in those seasons, 1971-1974.

7. Pronovost, who missed five games. His 75-game total was the least he has appeared in in six years.

8. The Washington Capitals.

9. Clark Gillies.

10. False. The Boomer coached the Rangers and Flames before taking over the four-time Stanley Cup defenders this season. ■

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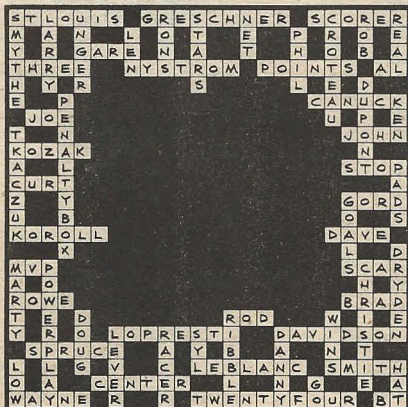
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NILSSON, Kent
PLETT, Willi
PRONOVOST, Jean
ROTA, Darcy
VAIL, Eric

DEFENSEMEN:

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MARSH, Brad
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THOMLISON, Tim

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MALAZDREWICZ, Jim
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PALMER, Rob

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MOLLEKEN, Lorne

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FONTAS, Jon
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JACKSON, Don
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SHMYR, Paul
SMITH, Greg
SPENCER, Kim

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MONDOU, Pierre
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SHUTT, Steve
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BURKE, Tim
ENGBLOM, Brian
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LUCIOW, Allan
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GILLIES, Clark
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JOHNSTON, Randy
LANGEVIN, Dave
LETZGUS, Steve
LEWIS, Dave
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LORIMER, Bob
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PERSSON, Stefan
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BETHEL, John
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DUGUAY, Ron
ESPOSITO, Phil
GOSSELIN, Benoit
HEDBERG, Anders
HICKEY, Pat
HRECHKOSY, Dave
JOHNSTONE, Eddie
KEATING, Mike
LAROSE, Claude
LOCHEAD, Bill
MAKUCH, Dan
MALONEY, Don
MARKHAM, Ray
MAYER, Jim
McDILL, Jeff
McDOUGAL, Mike
MILLER, Warren
MURDOCH, Don
NETHERY, Lance
NILSSON, Ulf
STEFANSKI, Bud
SULLIMAN, Doug
TALAFOUS, Dean
TKACZUK, Walter
TROY, Jim
VICKERS, Steve

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CLARK, Dan
DORE, Andre
GRESCHNER, Ron
GUEVREMONT, Jocelyn
HOSPODAR, Ed
MALONEY, Dave
MAROIS, Mario
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TURNER, Dean
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DAVIDSON, John
PETTIE, Jim
SOETAERT, Doug
THOMAS, Wayne

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BRIDGMAN, Mel

CLARK, Gordie
CLARKE, Bobby
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GORENCE, Tom
HILL, Al
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WILLIAMS, Tommy
ZUKE, Mike

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BROWNSCHIDLE, Jack
GIROUX, Larry
HESS, Bob
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LABATTE, Neil
LAMBY, Dick
LaPOINTE, Rick
MAXWELL, Bryan
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STEWART, Bob

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HEINZ, Rick
LIUT, Mike
SKIDMORE, Paul
STANIEWSKI, Ed

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ELLIS, Ron

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KIRTON, Mark

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HUTCHISON, Dave
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PALMATEER, Mike
HARRISON, Paul
CRHA, Jiri

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SEDLBAUER, Ron
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VAIVE, Rick

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GOODENOUGH, Larry
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HUGHES, John
KEARNS, Dennis
LINDGREN, Lars
MANNO, Bob
McCARTHY, Kevin
McILHARGY, Jack
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SWAN, Shane

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GIBSON, Doug
GIRARD, Bob
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HEXTALL, Dennis
JARVIS, Wes
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LEHTONEN, Antero
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POLIS, Greg
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SIROIS, Bob
WALTER, Ryan

DEFENSEMEN:

BOUCHARD, Pierre
GREEN, Rick
JOHNSTON, Jay
LABRE, Yvon
LANE, Gord
LYNCH, Jack
MACKINNON, Paul
PICARD, Robert
SCAMURRA, Peter
SVENSSON, Leif
TREMBLAY, Brent

GOALTENDERS:

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BOUTIN, Rolie
INNESS, Gary
PARRO, Dave
STEPHENSON, Wayne
WOLFE, Bernie

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CARR, Gene
CUNNINGHAM, Jim
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DILLON, Wayne
DROUIN, Jude
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GRAVES, Hiliard
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GUINDON, Bob
HAMILTON, Clark
HEASLIP, Mark

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MARSH, Peter
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MOFFAT, Lyle
RILEY, Bill
ROBERTS, Jim
STAMLER, Lorne
SULLIVAN, Peter
WILSON, Ron
YAKIUCHUK, Dale

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CAMERON, Al
CAMPBELL, Scott
DAVIS, Bill
MELROSE, Barry
NORWICH, Craig
SJOBERG, Lars-Erik
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Oct. 9	St. Louis at Vancouver	Oct. 26	N.Y. Islanders at Hartford	Minnesota at Los Angeles	
Oct. 10	N.Y. Rangers at Toronto		Edmonton at Atlanta	Toronto at Winnipeg	
	Atlanta at Quebec		Boston at Winnipeg	Nov. 11	Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers
	Winnipeg at Pittsburgh		Toronto at Colorado		Vancouver at Philadelphia
	Detroit at Los Angeles	Oct. 27	N.Y. Rangers at Minnesota		Atlanta at Boston
	Edmonton at Chicago		Chicago at N.Y. Islanders		Hartford at Chicago
Oct. 11	N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia		Philadelphia at Pittsburgh		St. Louis at Quebec
	Atlanta at Montreal		Atlanta at St. Louis		Colorado at Buffalo
	Washington at Buffalo		Washington at Vancouver		* Toronto at Edmonton
	Hartford at Minnesota		Detroit at Montreal	Nov. 13	N.Y. Rangers at N.Y. Islanders
	Winnipeg at Boston		Toronto at Los Angeles		Vancouver at Atlanta
	St. Louis at Colorado		Buffalo at Quebec		Edmonton at Washington
Oct. 12	Detroit at Vancouver	Oct. 28	Hartford at N.Y. Rangers		Montreal at St. Louis
Oct. 13	Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders		Detroit at Philadelphia		Colorado at Los Angeles
	Philadelphia at Atlanta		Washington at Edmonton	Nov. 14	Detroit at N.Y. Rangers
	Boston at Washington		Montreal at Quebec		Hartford at Winnipeg
	Quebec at Montreal		Boston at Chicago		Vancouver at Chicago
	Hartford at Pittsburgh		St. Louis at Winnipeg		St. Louis at Toronto
	Detroit at Edmonton		Colorado at Buffalo		Quebec at Minnesota
	St. Louis at Los Angeles	Oct. 30	Colorado at Atlanta	Nov. 15	Edmonton at Philadelphia
	Chicago at Minnesota		Montreal at Washington		Atlanta at Buffalo
	Colorado at Toronto		Boston at Los Angeles		Washington at Boston
Oct. 14	Washington at N.Y. Rangers		Edmonton at St. Louis		Montreal at Colorado
	Toronto at Philadelphia	Oct. 31	N.Y. Islanders at Vancouver		Pittsburgh at Los Angeles
	Hartford at Chicago		Hartford at Toronto	Nov. 16	N.Y. Rangers at Atlanta
	Pittsburgh at Boston		Colorado at Pittsburgh		Detroit at Washington
	Vancouver at Edmonton		Minnesota at Detroit		Pittsburgh at Vancouver
	Colorado at Winnipeg		Buffalo at Chicago		Quebec at Winnipeg
	Minnesota at Buffalo		Winnipeg at Quebec	Nov. 17	Detroit at N.Y. Islanders
Oct. 16	Atlanta at N.Y. Islanders	Nov. 1	N.Y. Rangers at Los Angeles		Philadelphia at St. Louis
	Los Angeles at Washington		St. Louis at Philadelphia		Montreal at Los Angeles
Oct. 17	Montreal at Chicago		Minnesota at Montreal		Edmonton at Hartford
	Hartford at Buffalo	Nov. 2	N.Y. Islanders at Edmonton		Chicago at Colorado
	Los Angeles at Pittsburgh		Quebec at Atlanta		Boston at Toronto
	Detroit at Winnipeg		Washington at Winnipeg		Buffalo at Minnesota
	Vancouver at St. Louis		Toronto at Hartford	Nov. 18	St. Louis at N.Y. Rangers
	Minnesota at Toronto		Boston at Vancouver		Atlanta at Washington
Oct. 18	Vancouver at N.Y. Rangers	Nov. 3	N.Y. Rangers at Colorado		Montreal at Vancouver
	N.Y. Islanders at Boston		Philadelphia at Montreal		Hartford at Boston
	Atlanta at Philadelphia		Atlanta at Pittsburgh		Pittsburgh at Winnipeg
	Quebec at Colorado		Washington at Minnesota		Minnesota at Chicago
Oct. 19	Toronto at Washington		Chicago at Detroit		Edmonton at Buffalo
	Los Angeles at Hartford		Los Angeles at St. Louis		Toronto at Quebec
	Minnesota at Winnipeg		Buffalo at Toronto	Nov. 20	N.Y. Islanders at St. Louis
	Quebec at Edmonton	Nov. 4	N.Y. Rangers at Vancouver		Washington at Colorado
Oct. 20	N.Y. Rangers at Montreal		N.Y. Islanders at Winnipeg		Los Angeles at Vancouver
	Hartford at N.Y. Islanders		Buffalo at Philadelphia		Boston at Quebec
	Philadelphia at Detroit		Detroit at Quebec	Nov. 21	Winnipeg at N.Y. Rangers
	Chicago at Atlanta		Los Angeles at Chicago		N.Y. Islanders at Minnesota
	Washington at Pittsburgh		Boston at Edmonton		Philadelphia at Los Angeles
	Los Angeles at Boston	Nov. 5	Washington at Montreal		Detroit at Atlanta
	Vancouver at Toronto	Nov. 6	Los Angeles at N.Y. Islanders		Washington at Chicago
	Winnipeg at Colorado		Winnipeg at Atlanta		Buffalo at Hartford
	Buffalo at St. Louis		Hartford at Colorado		St. Louis at Pittsburgh
Oct. 21	Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers		Minnesota at Vancouver		Edmonton at Toronto
	Montreal at Philadelphia	Nov. 7	Los Angeles at N.Y. Rangers	Nov. 22	Winnipeg at Montreal
	Vancouver at Buffalo		Philadelphia at Quebec		Quebec at Boston
	Quebec at Chicago		Winnipeg at Washington	Nov. 23	Philadelphia at Vancouver
Oct. 23	Minnesota at Edmonton		Montreal at Pittsburgh		Pittsburgh at Atlanta
	Edmonton at N.Y. Islanders		Edmonton at Detroit		Detroit at Colorado
	Montreal at Atlanta		Toronto at St. Louis	Nov. 24	N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh
	Los Angeles at Colorado	Nov. 8	Chicago at Buffalo		N.Y. Islanders at Los Angeles
	Boston at St. Louis		Edmonton at Boston		Philadelphia at Edmonton
Oct. 24	Edmonton at N.Y. Rangers	Nov. 9	N.Y. Islanders at Atlanta		* Buffalo at Washington
	Washington at Los Angeles		Chicago at Hartford		Boston at Montreal
	Hartford at Quebec		Minnesota at Colorado		Quebec at Hartford
	Pittsburgh at Buffalo	Nov. 10	Quebec at N.Y. Rangers		Detroit at Minnesota
	Toronto at Vancouver	*	Philadelphia at N.Y. Islanders		Vancouver at Winnipeg
	Winnipeg at Chicago		Buffalo at Washington		Chicago at Toronto
	St. Louis at Minnesota		St. Louis at Montreal		Colorado at St. Louis
Oct. 25	N.Y. Rangers at Philadelphia		Boston at Pittsburgh	Nov. 25	Toronto at N.Y. Rangers
	Pittsburgh at Montreal		Vancouver at Detroit		Atlanta at Hartford
	Buffalo at Detroit				

(*Denotes afternoon game.)

	Washington at Quebec		Hartford at Los Angeles		Winnipeg at Toronto
	Montreal at Boston		Winnipeg at Quebec	Dec. 30	Washington at N.Y. Rangers
	St. Louis at Chicago		Colorado at Toronto		N.Y. Islanders at Detroit
Nov. 27	Minnesota at Buffalo	Dec. 13	Quebec at Philadelphia		Boston at Chicago
	Hartford at Philadelphia		Detroit at Boston	Dec. 31	Quebec at Edmonton
	Toronto at Atlanta		Chicago at Buffalo		Pittsburgh at Minnesota
	Montreal at Detroit	Dec. 14	Minnesota at Atlanta		Colorado at Detroit
	Winnipeg at Los Angeles		Montreal at Edmonton	Jan. 1	Winnipeg at Buffalo
	Quebec at St. Louis		Colorado at Vancouver	Jan. 2	Hartford at Edmonton
Nov. 28	Buffalo at Boston	Dec. 15	N.Y. Rangers at Washington		N.Y. Rangers at Quebec
	Minnesota at N.Y. Rangers		Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders		N.Y. Islanders at Toronto
	N.Y. Islanders at Colorado		Buffalo at Philadelphia		Montreal at Pittsburgh
	Toronto at Washington		Atlanta at Toronto		Los Angeles at Detroit
	Quebec at Pittsburgh		Montreal at Winnipeg		Colorado at Chicago
	Winnipeg at Vancouver		Hartford at Colorado	Jan. 3	Boston at Minnesota
	Chicago at Edmonton		Quebec at Detroit		Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders
Nov. 29	N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo		Vancouver at Los Angeles	Jan. 4	Vancouver at St. Louis
	Minnesota at Philadelphia		* Chicago at Boston		Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers
	St. Louis at Montreal		Minnesota at St. Louis		Detroit at Atlanta
Nov. 30	N.Y. Islanders at Edmonton	Dec. 16	Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers		Washington at Hartford
	Buffalo at Atlanta		Pittsburgh at Quebec		Vancouver at Colorado
	Pittsburgh at Hartford		Detroit at Chicago	Jan. 5	Boston at Winnipeg
	Chicago at Vancouver		Winnipeg at Edmonton		St. Louis at N.Y. Islanders
Dec. 1	N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis		Boston at Buffalo		Washington at Minnesota
	Philadelphia at Toronto	Dec. 17	Toronto at Minnesota		Chicago at Montreal
	* Quebec at Washington	Dec. 18	Colorado at N.Y. Islanders		Buffalo at Pittsburgh
	Hartford at Montreal		Montreal at St. Louis		Los Angeles at Edmonton
	Colorado at Pittsburgh	Dec. 19	Vancouver at N.Y. Rangers	Jan. 6	Quebec at Toronto
	Boston at Detroit		Washington at Hartford		Atlanta at N.Y. Rangers
	Chicago at Los Angeles		Montreal at Minnesota		Philadelphia at Buffalo
Dec. 2	Winnipeg at Minnesota		Pittsburgh at Chicago		Detroit at Hartford
	N.Y. Islanders at Winnipeg		Detroit at Edmonton		Los Angeles at Winnipeg
	Detroit at Philadelphia		Los Angeles at Toronto	Jan. 7	Vancouver at Chicago
	Washington at Buffalo		Buffalo at Winnipeg		Hartford at N.Y. Rangers
	Vancouver at Quebec		Colorado at Quebec		Philadelphia at Minnesota
	Colorado at Boston	Dec. 20	Pittsburgh at Philadelphia		Edmonton at Montreal
Dec. 3	Montreal at N.Y. Rangers		Los Angeles at Buffalo	Jan. 8	Pittsburgh at Toronto
Dec. 4	Vancouver at N.Y. Islanders		Toronto at Boston		Vancouver at N.Y. Islanders
	Boston at Philadelphia	Dec. 21	St. Louis at Atlanta		Winnipeg at Atlanta
	Los Angeles at Atlanta		Vancouver at Washington		Los Angeles at St. Louis
	Hartford at Washington		Chicago at Winnipeg	Jan. 9	Boston at Colorado
	Winnipeg at St. Louis		Edmonton at Colorado		N.Y. Rangers at Detroit
	Colorado at Quebec	Dec. 22	N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh		N.Y. Islanders at Buffalo
Dec. 5	Chicago at N.Y. Rangers		Washington at N.Y. Islanders		Montreal at Toronto
	Atlanta at Buffalo		* Philadelphia at Boston		Hartford at Minnesota
	Montreal at Toronto		Atlanta at St. Louis		Vancouver at Pittsburgh
	Vancouver at Pittsburgh		Vancouver at Montreal		Los Angeles at Chicago
	Winnipeg at Detroit		Buffalo at Hartford	Jan. 10	Edmonton at Quebec
Dec. 6	Edmonton at Minnesota		Detroit at Toronto		Winnipeg at Philadelphia
	Boston at N.Y. Islanders		Edmonton at Los Angeles	Jan. 11	St. Louis at Boston
	Los Angeles at Philadelphia		Quebec at Minnesota		N.Y. Rangers at Edmonton
	St. Louis at Quebec	Dec. 23	Boston at N.Y. Rangers		Quebec at Atlanta
Dec. 7	N.Y. Rangers at Hartford		N.Y. Islanders at Chicago		Vancouver at Washington
	Pittsburgh at Washington		Hartford at Philadelphia	Jan. 12	Buffalo at Colorado
	Los Angeles at Montreal		Toronto at Montreal		N.Y. Rangers at Winnipeg
	Edmonton at Winnipeg		Quebec at Buffalo		Washington at N.Y. Islanders
	Buffalo at Colorado	Dec. 26	Philadelphia at Hartford		Philadelphia at Montreal
Dec. 8	N.Y. Islanders at Toronto		Boston at Atlanta		* Atlanta at Boston
	Atlanta at Minnesota		Washington at Toronto		Hartford at Detroit
	Washington at St. Louis		Detroit at Pittsburgh		Chicago at Pittsburgh
	Chicago at Pittsburgh		Chicago at St. Louis		Los Angeles at Minnesota
	Vancouver at Detroit		Winnipeg at Minnesota		Vancouver at Toronto
Dec. 9	N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers	Dec. 27	Colorado at Edmonton	Jan. 13	Quebec at St. Louis
	Chicago at Philadelphia		N.Y. Islanders at Montreal		St. Louis at Philadelphia
	Atlanta at Winnipeg		St. Louis at Detroit		Detroit at Chicago
	Colorado at Montreal		Quebec at Los Angeles		Los Angeles at Winnipeg
	Hartford at Edmonton		Minnesota at Colorado		Colorado at Boston
	Los Angeles at Quebec		Toronto at Buffalo	Jan. 14	Buffalo at Edmonton
	Vancouver at Boston	Dec. 28	Philadelphia at Winnipeg		Colorado at N.Y. Rangers
Dec. 10	Detroit at Buffalo		Pittsburgh at Atlanta	Jan. 15	Atlanta at Montreal
Dec. 11	N.Y. Rangers at Detroit		Chicago at Washington		Winnipeg at N.Y. Islanders
	Montreal at N.Y. Islanders		Edmonton at Vancouver		Washington at Philadelphia
	Hartford at Vancouver	Dec. 29	Philadelphia at Colorado	Jan. 16	Minnesota at St. Louis
	Pittsburgh at St. Louis		Atlanta at Pittsburgh		Winnipeg at N.Y. Rangers
Dec. 12	N.Y. Rangers at Chicago		Buffalo at Montreal		Atlanta at Vancouver
	N.Y. Islanders at Pittsburgh		Hartford at St. Louis		Edmonton at Washington
	Atlanta at Edmonton		Minnesota at Los Angeles		Montreal at Chicago
	Minnesota at Washington		Quebec at Vancouver		Toronto at Pittsburgh
					Colorado at Detroit

	Buffalo at Los Angeles		Hartford at Atlanta		Edmonton at Hartford
	St. Louis at Minnesota		Montreal at Los Angeles		St. Louis at Vancouver
	Boston at Quebec		Detroit at St. Louis		Buffalo at Quebec
Jan. 17	Toronto at N.Y. Islanders		Vancouver at Minnesota	Feb. 20	Edmonton at N.Y. Rangers
	Chicago at Philadelphia		Chicago at Toronto		Detroit at Pittsburgh
	Atlanta at Colorado		Winnipeg at Colorado		Boston at Los Angeles
	Pittsburgh at Hartford		* Quebec at Boston		Toronto at Chicago
	Edmonton at Boston	Feb. 3	N.Y. Rangers at Quebec		Winnipeg at Buffalo
Jan. 18	Detroit at Winnipeg		N.Y. Islanders at Hartford	Feb. 21	Minnesota at N.Y. Islanders
	Buffalo at Vancouver		Boston at Philadelphia		Washington at Atlanta
Jan. 19	* N.Y. Rangers at Boston		St. Louis at Detroit		Winnipeg at Montreal
	Quebec at N.Y. Islanders		Los Angeles at Edmonton	Feb. 22	Philadelphia at Vancouver
	Philadelphia at Washington		Vancouver at Buffalo		Edmonton at Colorado
	Atlanta at Los Angeles		Toronto at Chicago	Feb. 23	N.Y. Rangers at Minnesota
	Toronto at Montreal		Colorado at Minnesota		N.Y. Islanders at St. Louis
	Chicago at Hartford	Feb. 5	All-Star Game at Detroit		Philadelphia at Los Angeles
	Edmonton at Pittsburgh	Feb. 6	Washington at Detroit		Hartford at Atlanta
	Detroit at Minnesota		Los Angeles at Hartford		* Chicago at Washington
	St. Louis at Colorado		Chicago at Quebec		Detroit at Montreal
Jan. 20	Chicago at N.Y. Rangers		St. Louis at Edmonton		Quebec at Pittsburgh
	Washington at Quebec	Feb. 7	Los Angeles at N.Y. Islanders		Boston at Vancouver
	Edmonton at Buffalo		Vancouver at Philadelphia	Feb. 24	Toronto at Winnipeg
Jan. 21	Winnipeg at Hartford		Colorado at Montreal		N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers
	Minnesota at Boston		Pittsburgh at Buffalo		Washington at Colorado
Jan. 22	N.Y. Rangers at Los Angeles		Toronto at Boston		Pittsburgh at Quebec
	Montreal at N.Y. Islanders	Feb. 8	Atlanta at Edmonton		Minnesota at Detroit
	Philadelphia at St. Louis		Washington at Winnipeg		Buffalo at Chicago
	Toronto at Atlanta		Colorado at Hartford		Boston at Edmonton
	Winnipeg at Washington	Feb. 9	Quebec at N.Y. Islanders	Feb. 26	Montreal at Atlanta
Jan. 23	Colorado at Vancouver		Philadelphia at Detroit		Los Angeles at Washington
	N.Y. Rangers at Vancouver		Vancouver at Montreal		Hartford at Quebec
	N.Y. Islanders at Detroit		Minnesota at Pittsburgh		Vancouver at Minnesota
	Philadelphia at Chicago		Los Angeles at Toronto		Toronto at St. Louis
	Pittsburgh at Edmonton		* Chicago at Boston	Feb. 27	Los Angeles at N.Y. Rangers
	Minnesota at Quebec		Buffalo at St. Louis		N.Y. Islanders at Quebec
Jan. 24	Montreal at Hartford	Feb. 10	Quebec at N.Y. Rangers		Philadelphia at Buffalo
	Pittsburgh at Colorado		Los Angeles at Philadelphia		Boston at Hartford
	Toronto at Los Angeles		* Atlanta at Colorado		Winnipeg at Pittsburgh
	Buffalo at Boston		Montreal at Boston		Edmonton at Chicago
Jan. 25	Philadelphia at Winnipeg		Minnesota at Hartford		Toronto at Colorado
	Chicago at Atlanta		Pittsburgh at Chicago	Feb. 28	N.Y. Rangers at Boston
Jan. 26	Hartford at N.Y. Islanders		Toronto at Detroit		Washington at Detroit
	Atlanta at Detroit		* Edmonton at Winnipeg		Minnesota at Montreal
	* Quebec at Washington	Feb. 11	St. Louis at Buffalo	Feb. 29	St. Louis at Hartford
	Buffalo at Montreal	Feb. 12	Winnipeg at N.Y. Islanders		Vancouver at Winnipeg
	Boston at Pittsburgh		Washington at Los Angeles		Buffalo at Edmonton
	* Los Angeles at Minnesota		Vancouver at Hartford	Mar. 1	Detroit at N.Y. Islanders
	Colorado at St. Louis		N.Y. Rangers at Chicago		Philadelphia at Toronto
	Toronto at Edmonton	Feb. 13	Atlanta at Detroit		Colorado at Atlanta
Jan. 27	N.Y. Rangers at Colorado		Pittsburgh at Toronto		Washington at Montreal
	N.Y. Islanders at Washington		Edmonton at Minnesota		Hartford at St. Louis
	Philadelphia at Edmonton	Feb. 14	N.Y. Islanders at Colorado		* Los Angeles at Boston
	Pittsburgh at Boston		Winnipeg at Philadelphia		Vancouver at Edmonton
	Detroit at Quebec		Quebec at Montreal		Chicago at Minnesota
	Los Angeles at Buffalo		St. Louis at Los Angeles	Mar. 2	Boston at N.Y. Rangers
	Toronto at Vancouver		Boston at Buffalo		* N.Y. Islanders at Pittsburgh
	Minnesota at Chicago	Feb. 15	Washington at Edmonton		Montreal at Philadelphia
Jan. 28	* St. Louis at Winnipeg		Winnipeg at Hartford		Colorado at Washington
Jan. 29	Atlanta at Hartford	Feb. 16	N.Y. Islanders at Los Angeles		Toronto at Detroit
	Minnesota at N.Y. Islanders		Atlanta at Minnesota		Los Angeles at Quebec
	Montreal at Vancouver		Washington at Vancouver		* Chicago at Winnipeg
	Winnipeg at Los Angeles		Pittsburgh at Montreal		Buffalo at Minnesota
	Edmonton at St. Louis		Hartford at Toronto	Mar. 3	Pittsburgh at St. Louis
Jan. 30	Atlanta at Quebec		Buffalo at Detroit	Mar. 4	Edmonton at N.Y. Islanders
	Washington at Chicago		Boston at Colorado		Colorado at Philadelphia
	Montreal at Colorado	Feb. 17	Toronto at N.Y. Rangers		Winnipeg at Vancouver
	Boston at Hartford		N.Y. Islanders at Vancouver	Mar. 5	Buffalo at N.Y. Rangers
	St. Louis at Pittsburgh		Pittsburgh at Philadelphia		Atlanta at Los Angeles
	Detroit at Toronto		Atlanta at Chicago		St. Louis at Washington
Jan. 31	Edmonton at Los Angeles		Montreal at Buffalo		Toronto at Pittsburgh
	N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo		* Quebec at Winnipeg		Boston at Detroit
	N.Y. Islanders at Boston		St. Louis at Edmonton		Chicago at Vancouver
	Minnesota at Philadelphia	Feb. 18	N.Y. Rangers at Hartford		Minnesota at Quebec
Feb. 1	Pittsburgh at Detroit		Los Angeles at Detroit	Mar. 6	N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia
	Washington at Atlanta	Feb. 19	Toronto at N.Y. Islanders		Edmonton at Montreal
	Winnipeg at Edmonton		Philadelphia at Colorado		Hartford at Buffalo
Feb. 2	N.Y. Rangers at Washington		Minnesota at Atlanta		
	Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders		Montreal at Washington		
	Philadelphia at Pittsburgh				

Mar. 7	Atlanta at Vancouver Chicago at Colorado	Mar. 18	Atlanta at N.Y. Islanders Colorado at Washington Pittsburgh at Minnesota Boston at St. Louis	Mar. 29	Hartford at Vancouver Pittsburgh at Colorado Minnesota at Winnipeg N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis Philadelphia at Washington
Mar. 8	N.Y. Rangers at Montreal Boston at N.Y. Islanders Philadelphia at Minnesota * Hartford at Washington Edmonton at Pittsburgh Detroit at St. Louis Chicago at Los Angeles Quebec at Toronto	Mar. 19	N.Y. Rangers at Edmonton Montreal at Hartford Detroit at Los Angeles Buffalo at Vancouver Quebec at Chicago Winnipeg at Toronto Boston at Minnesota Toronto at Philadelphia St. Louis at Atlanta Quebec at Colorado	Mar. 30	N.Y. Islanders at Quebec Atlanta at Philadelphia * Washington at Pittsburgh Montreal at Buffalo Minnesota at Vancouver * Colorado at Chicago Winnipeg at Boston
Mar. 9	* N.Y. Islanders at Washington Edmonton at Philadelphia * Atlanta at Winnipeg Hartford at Boston Pittsburgh at Detroit * Vancouver at Colorado St. Louis at Buffalo Toronto at Quebec	Mar. 20	Mar. 21	Mar. 31	Apr. 1
Mar. 10	Vancouver at Atlanta Los Angeles at Montreal Colorado at N.Y. Islanders Mar. 11	Mar. 22	Mar. 23	Apr. 2	Apr. 3
Mar. 12	Colorado at N.Y. Rangers Philadelphia at Chicago Boston at Washington Montreal at Minnesota Hartford at Detroit Los Angeles at Pittsburgh Buffalo at Winnipeg St. Louis at Toronto Edmonton at Quebec Los Angeles at Atlanta Vancouver at Hartford Detroit at Boston	Mar. 24	Mar. 25	Apr. 4	Apr. 5
Mar. 13	Mar. 14	Mar. 26	Mar. 27	Apr. 6	
Mar. 15	Mar. 16	Mar. 17			

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- 1910-11 — Game changed from two 30-minute periods to three 20-minute periods.
- 1911-12 — 6-man hockey originated in National Hockey Association (fore-runner of National Hockey League). P.C.H.L. didn't have 6-man hockey until 1922-23 season.
- 1918-19 — The three playing zones, and forward passing in centre area came into existence. Kicking the puck allowed. Tabulation of assists first started.
- 1920-21 — Goalkeepers were allowed to pass the puck forward in the defensive areas.
- 1925-26 — Delayed penalty rule introduced. There must never be fewer than 4 players on each team on the ice.
- 1927-28 — Forward passes were allowed in defending and centre zones. Goalkeepers pads were cut down to 10 inches in width. Prior to that they were 12 inches across. Length of hockey stick limited to 53 inches. Previously there had been no limit. Art Ross nets adopted.
- 1928-29 — Forward passes permitted in defensive and neutral zones and into attacking zone if pass receiver in neutral zone when pass made. However, no forward passing inside attacking zone itself.
- 1929-30 — Forward passing permitted inside all three zones but not permitted across blue lines.
- 1930-31 — Forward passing permitted across blue lines and in all zones but it was illegal to precede puck into attacking zone.
- 1934-35 — The penalty shot made its appearance.
- 1937-38 — Rule prohibiting "icing the puck" introduced.
- 1938-39 — Penalty shot made more spectacular for fans by allowing the player taking the shot to carry the puck right into the goal-mouth if he so desired. One referee and one linesman introduced. Blue lines widened to 12 inches.
- 1940-41 — Flooding ice surface between periods made obligatory.
- 1942-43 — On Nov. 21, 1942 overtime discontinued in League games.
- 1943-44 — Red line at centre ice introduced; speeded up game. This is beginning of so-called "modern era".
- 1945-46 — The one referee and two linesmen form of officiating made its appearance. Synchronized goal lights made obligatory.
- 1946-47 — A system of signals by officials was designed to keep fans better informed on rule infractions. Neutral linesmen introduced.
- 1949-50 — Ice surface painted white. Clubs allowed to dress 17 players exclusive of goalkeepers for a game.
- 1951-52 — Goal crease enlarged from three-by-seven feet to four-by-eight; face-off circle enlarged from a 10-foot radius to a 15-foot radius.
- 1956-57 — Player serving minor penalty allowed to return to ice when goal scored by opposing team.
- 1960-61 — Clubs allowed to dress 16 players exclusive of goalkeeper for a game.
- 1964-65 — Rules modified to provide no bodily contact on face-offs.
- 1966-67 — Substitution allowed on coincidental major penalties.
- 1970-71 — Home teams wear basic white uniforms; visiting teams wear basic colored uniforms. Limit of curvature of hockey stick blade reduced from one inch to one-half inch.
- 1971-72 — The third player to enter an altercation assessed an automatic game misconduct penalty.
- 1976-77 — New rules introduced to penalize the aggressor in altercations. Presidential powers increased to impose supplementary discipline.

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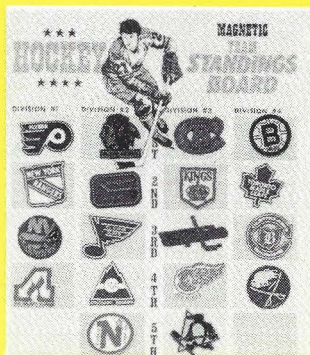
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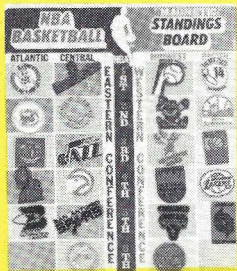
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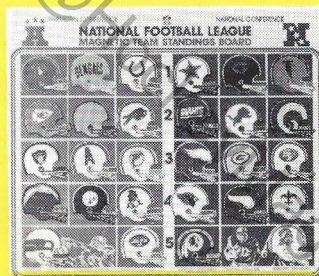
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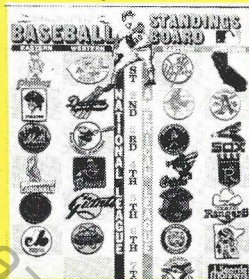
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